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Monday, September 2, 2013

LABOR PAINS



President Barack Obama meets with his national security staff to discuss the situation in Syria, in the Situation Room of the White House, in Washington. Obama announced that he will pause his march to battle by asking lawmakers to give him authorization before he launches a limited military strike against Syria.

(Pete Souza/The New York Times)

Citing sarin use, US seeks Congress' OK for action

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration geared up for the biggest foreign policy vote since the Iraq war by arguing Sunday that new evidence shows the Syrian government used sarin gas in a deadly August attack. With its credibility on the line, the United States must respond, the country's top diplomat said.

Members of Congress,

deadlocked on just about everything these days and still on summer break, expressed sharply divergent opinions about whether to give President Barack Obama the go-ahead he requested to retaliate with military force against the Assad regime, and what turning down the commander in chief could mean for America's reputation.

Secretary of State John Kerry presented Obama's

case for military action in a series of interviews on Sunday TV news shows, outlining the latest information the administration has received about the Aug. 21 attack in the Damascus suburbs that the U.S. says killed 1,429 civilians, including more than 400 children. He said samples collected by first responders in Damascus added to the growing body of proof that Syria's government had launched a chemical

weapons attack.

"Samples of hair and blood have been tested and they have reported positive for signatures of sarin," Kerry said. "Each day that goes by, this case is even stronger. We know that the regime ordered this attack. We know they prepared for it. We know where the rockets came from. We know where they landed. We know the damage that was done afterwards."

Sarin, which affects the ner-

vous system and is toxic in liquid or gas form, can be delivered in missiles, bombs, rockets or artillery shells. The gas is outlawed under international rules of warfare. The reference to hair and blood samples were the first pieces of specific physiological evidence cited by any member of the administration, which previously spoke only about an unnamed nerve agent.

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Arab League:

Saudis push for strike on Syria

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
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CAIRO - Saudi Arabia and the other oil-rich Persian Gulf monarchies on Sunday stepped up their efforts to drum up support for Western airstrikes against Syria. With the Arab League meeting Sunday evening for a second time to discuss responses to the Syrian chemical weapons attack, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, broke the kingdom's public silence on the subject at a press conference in Cairo on Sunday afternoon, urging other Arab nations to back the Syrian rebel calls for military action against the government of President Bashar Assad af-

ter a suspected chemical weapons attack that killed hundreds.

Saudi Arabia, its Gulf allies and Jordan have all pushed hard behind the scenes for Washington to lead strikes against Assad, whom they consider the most important regional ally of their greatest enemy, Iran. That pressure continued Sunday, but until now they have refrained from publicly endorsing Western military action, presumably because the idea of Western intervention is overwhelmingly unpopular across the Arab world.

Several analysts said Sunday that President Barack Obama had badly damaged American credibility

in the Arab world by appearing to back down from airstrikes just hours before many Arab government expected them to begin. At an Arab League meeting last week, Saudi Arabia and its allies signed on to a more noncommittal statement holding Assad responsible for the use of chemical weapons but stopping short of endorsing any specific action in response. The Saudi foreign minister's statement Sunday, however, indicated that the Persian Gulf countries were determined to push for stronger public support from the Arab world, even at the cost of angering their citizens and overcoming resistance from others in the region. □



Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal looks on as he attends the Arab countries foreign ministers summit at Arab League headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013. The 22-state Arab League held an emergency session on Syria, where the Saudi Arabian foreign minister, Saud al-Faisal, prodded member states to back measures against the Syrian regime.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

Pope calls for day of fasting for Syria peace

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis on Sunday condemned the use of chemical weapons, but he called for a negotiated settlement of the civil war in Syria, and announced he would lead a worldwide day of fasting and prayer for peace there on Sept. 7. Francis abandoned the traditional religious theme of the weekly papal appearance to

crowds in St. Peter's Square and instead spoke entirely, and with anguish, about Syria.

"My heart is deeply wounded by what is happening in Syria and anguished by the dramatic developments" on the horizon, Francis said, in an apparent reference to the U.S. and France considering a military strike to punish the Syrian regime for a chemi-

cal weapons attack. Francis reiterated previous appeals for all sides in the civil war to put down their arms and "listen to the voice of their conscience and with courage take up the way of negotiations."

With tens of thousands of people in the square applauding his words, Francis delivered his strongest remarks yet to express his horror at the use □

AROUND THE WORLD

Dubai building cleared after false bomb threat

DUBAI, UAE (AP) — Dubai authorities say they have evacuated a government building after an Uzbek woman claiming to have explosives demanded to see officials to discuss a paternity dispute. A statement from Dubai's Media Office says negotiators are in contact with the woman in the ongoing standoff in the building's lobby. It is unclear whether the woman accompanied by a child actually has an explosive device. All personnel were ordered to leave the headquarters of the public prosecutors' office. The statement issued Sunday described the woman's complaint as linked to her efforts to prove a man was the father of her child. □

Suspected US drone kills 3 militants in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A pair of missiles launched by a suspected U.S. drone killed at least three foreign militants in an abandoned seminary near Pakistan's border with Afghanistan this weekend, intelligence officials said. Two militants were also wounded in the strike in Mussaki village in North Waziristan, the officials said, adding that militants from Turkmenistan or China were among those at the seminary but the nationality of those killed was not immediately known. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters. In a statement, Pakistan's foreign ministry condemned the strikes, calling them "unilateral." □

Liquid ammonia leak kills 15 people in Shanghai

BEIJING (AP) — At least 15 people were killed this weekend after liquid ammonia leaked from a refrigeration unit at a cold storage plant in China's financial hub of Shanghai, the local government said. Twenty-five people were injured in the accident, which happened at a plant in the Baoshan district of the east coast city, the Shanghai government Information Office said. Five of the injured were in serious condition. The cause of the leak was not immediately known and investigations led by the city's work safety bureau were underway, it said. The Information Office said an environmental monitoring station in the district did not detect any negative impact from the leak. □

Indian spiritual leader arrested on rape charges

JAIPUR, India (AP) — A controversial spiritual guru was arrested early Sunday on a rape charge filed by a teenage girl in the Indian state of Rajasthan, police said. Asaram Bapu was arrested at a spiritual retreat and flown to the city of Jodhpur, where police say he is wanted for allegedly raping the girl, said police. The girl filed a complaint two weeks ago accusing the Hindu religious preacher of raping her when she visited his retreat in Jodhpur with her mother. Bapu outraged many Indians earlier this year when he said the victim of a gang rape on a New Delhi bus would have been let off if she had addressed her attackers as brothers and pleaded with them to spare her. □

Citing sarin use, US seeks Congress' OK for action

Continued from front

Kerry's assertion coincided with the beginning of a forceful administration appeal for congressional support, now that Obama has declared he will await approval from the House of Representatives and Senate before ordering any cruise missile strikes or other action.

On Capitol Hill, senior administration officials briefed lawmakers in private to explain why the U.S. is compelled to act against President Bashar Assad's government. Further classified meetings were planned over the next three days. Republican Sen. John McCain, a leading Senate hawk and the candidate Obama defeated for the presidency in 2008, said he would discuss Syria with the president at the White House on Monday.

Obama must convince skeptical Americans and their representatives in Congress of the need for more U.S. military action in the Muslim world after a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He also is trying to assemble an international coalition, but finding it hard to land partners.

They fear becoming involved in a conflict that has claimed more than 100,000 lives in the past 2½ years and dragged in terrorist groups on both sides of the battlefield.

Only France is firmly on board among the major military powers. Britain's Parliament rejected the use of force in a vote last week.

The United Nations on Sunday asked the head of its chemical weapons inspection team to expedite the analysis of tests from samples it collected last week from the site of the attacks in the Damascus suburbs.

Assad's government, which has denied allegations of chemical weapons use, reveled in Obama's decision to defer any immediate action. Deputy Foreign Minister Faysal Mikdad claimed that the move reflected the lack of evidence of government

culpability.

With U.S. Navy ships on standby in the eastern Mediterranean Sea ready to launch missiles, Congress began a series of meetings that will take

On selling the strategy to Congress, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, the senior Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee, said, "They have a ways to go."

"The stakes are just really too high here," he said. Kerry was asked repeatedly in the broadcast interviews what Obama would do if Congress didn't give its consent. He said he be-

ate than the Republican-dominated House, yet faces complicated battles in each. Some anti-war Democrats and many tea party-backed conservative Republicans are opposed to any intervention at all, while hawks in both parties, such as McCain, feel the president must do far more to help Syria's rebels oust Assad from power.

"It can't just be, in my view, pinprick cruise missiles," McCain told CBS' "Face the Nation."

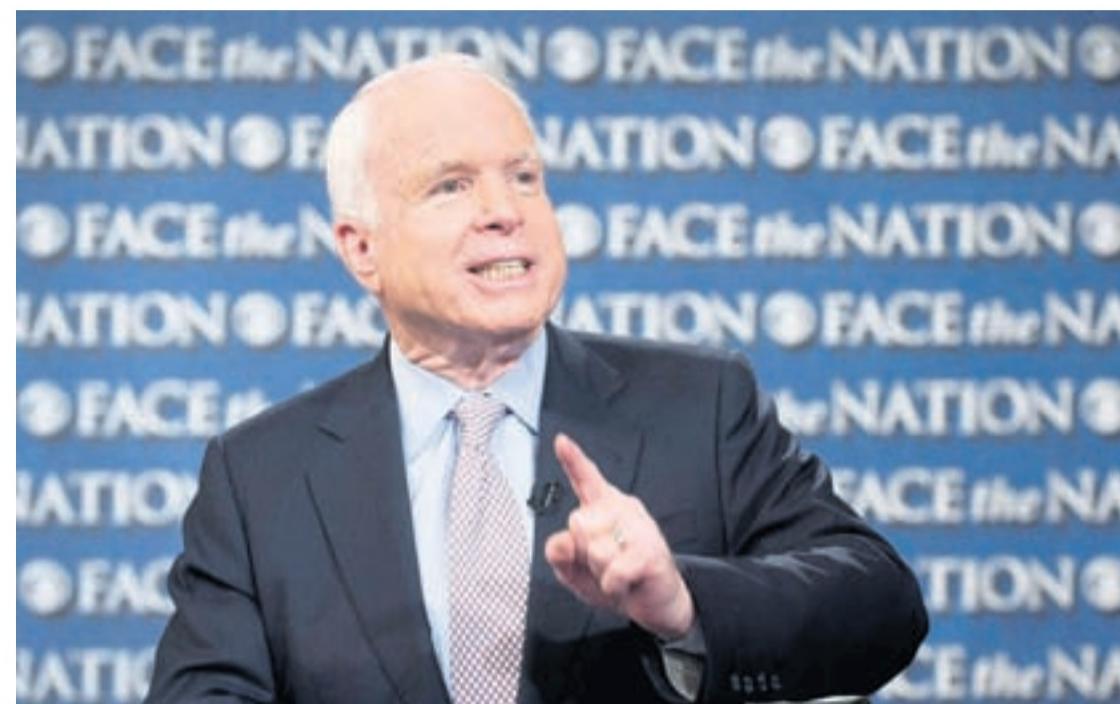
In an interview with an Israeli television network, McCain said Obama has "encouraged our enemies" by effectively punting his decision to Congress.

He and fellow Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham have threatened to vote against Obama's authorization if it is too limited.

On the other end of the spectrum, an unusual coalition of foreign policy isolationists, fiscal conservatives and anti-interventionists in both parties opposes even limited intervention for fear that might draw the United States into another costly and even bloody confrontation.

The White House's request to Congress sent late Saturday speaks only of force to "deter, disrupt, prevent and degrade" the Assad regime's ability to use chemical weapons.

"I think it's a mistake to get involved in the Syrian civil war," said Republican Sen. Rand Paul. □



In this photo provided by CBS News, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., talks about the U.S. response to Syria on CBS's "Face the Nation" in Washington Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013. McCain said he and others on Capitol Hill would want to see a plan and a strategy, that will achieve some goals that the country needs achieved.

(AP Photo/CBS News, Chris Usher)

place over the next several days in preparation for a vote once lawmakers return from summer break, which is scheduled to end Sept. 9. Dozens of members attended the two-hour classified briefing Sunday in the Capitol, though many emerged saying they needed to see more details of Obama's plan and more facts about the alleged chemical weapons attack. Many feared giving Obama overly broad authority for military action.

"They also have work to do with respect to shoring up the facts of what happened," Thompson said. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee plans a meeting Tuesday, according to its chairman, Sen. Bob Menendez. The Senate Armed Service Committee will gather a day later, said Sen. Jim Inhofe, the top Republican on the panel. Kerry confidently predicted that lawmakers would back limited military strikes.

Lied lawmakers would recognize the grave implications for letting a chemical weapons attack go unchecked and what that might mean for U.S. efforts to force North Korea to get rid of its nuclear weapons and prevent Iran from acquiring such capability. "We are not going to lose this vote," Kerry said. "The credibility of the United States is on the line." Obama is likely to find stronger support in the Democrat-controlled Sen-

Vodafone confirms late-stage talks with Verizon

NEW YORK (AP) — Vodafone says it is in advanced talks to sell its 45 percent stake of Verizon Wireless back to the U.S. cellphone service provider for \$130 billion in cash and stock, a deal which would be the second-largest acquisition deal on record if it goes through. If an agreement is reached, Verizon would own its wireless business outright after buying the stake back from British cellphone company Vodafone PLC. Vodafone said in a statement on Sunday

there is no certainty that a final deal will be reached. Verizon Communications Inc. declined to comment. The buyout, if finalized, would be second only to Vodafone's \$172 billion acquisition of Mannesmann AG in 2000, according to research firm Dealogic. It would give Vodafone PLC additional cash to pursue its expansion ambitions in Europe. It would also give Verizon Communications the opportunity to boost its quarterly earnings, as it would no longer

have to share a portion of proceeds from the nation's No. 1 wireless carrier with Vodafone.

The potential deal isn't expected to have much of an effect on Verizon consumers or on the company's operations. Vodafone had little influence on Verizon Wireless' day-to-day operations, and the two companies have kept out of each other's territory.

The Verizon-Vodafone partnership started in 2000, when what was then Bell Atlantic combined its East

Coast wireless network with Vodafone's operations on the West Coast. Vodafone had entered the U.S. market a year earlier by out-bidding Bell Atlantic to buy AirTouch Communications Inc. of San Francisco.

Verizon has had a long-standing interest in buying out its partner, but the two companies haven't agreed on a price. Analysts said Verizon wanted to pay around \$100 billion for Vodafone's stake, while Vodafone has been pressing for \$130 billion. □

California fire 40 percent contained

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, California (AP)

The wildfire burning in and around Yosemite National Park has become the fourth-largest conflagration in modern California history, fire officials said Sunday as clouds and higher humidity helped crews further contain the biggest blaze in the United

States this year.

The 2-week-old Rim Fire moved up a spot on the state's list of large wildfires dating back to 1932 when it grew to 348 square miles (901 square kilometers) — an area larger than the cities of San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose combined — on Saturday,

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Daniel Berlant said.

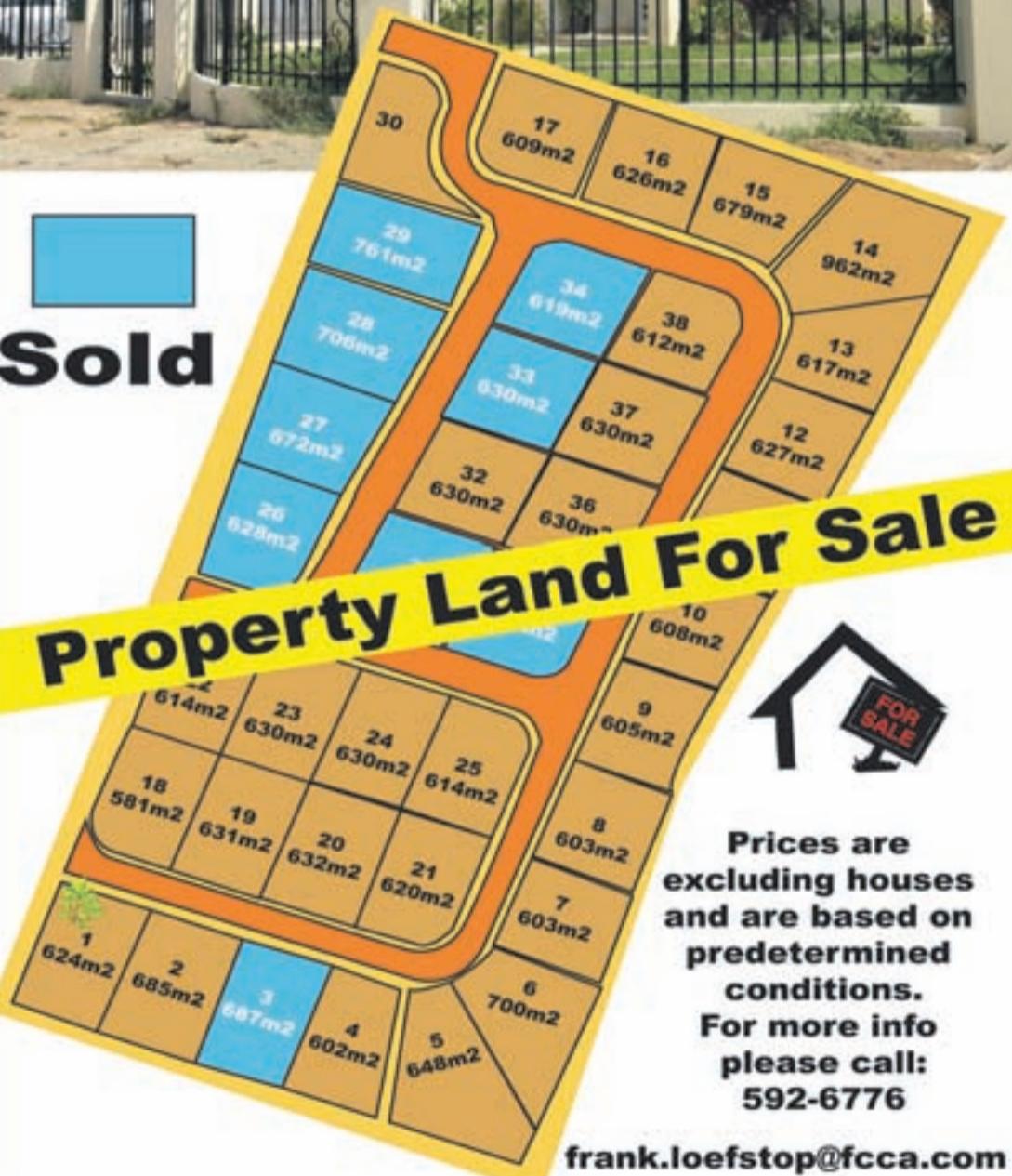
Although the fire still is growing, it was 40 percent contained as of Sunday, up from 35 percent a day earlier.

Moister air was expected to slow flames from ad-

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A member of the Bureau of Land Management Silver State Hotshot crew from Elko, Nevada, stands by a burn operation on the southern flank of the Rim Fire near Yosemite National Park in California. The wildfire burning in and around Yosemite National Park has become the fourth-largest conflagration in California history.

(AP Photo/U.S. Forest Service, Mike McMillan)

vancing through brush and trees, giving firefighters room to set backfires, dig containment lines and to strengthen lines around threatened communities, U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman Pam Baltimore said. Full containment is not expected until Sept. 20.

The blaze started Aug. 17 in the Stanislaus National Forest and two-thirds of the land burned since then is located there as well. In Yosemite, 94 square miles (243 square kilometers)

have burned. The cause remains under investigation, Baltimore said.

"Either way, if it was lightning or human-caused, they have not released any findings and we are not sure if and when that will be released," she said. Meanwhile, the dense smoke that obscured Yosemite's majestic views for the first time on Saturday and prompted air quality warnings was starting to ease, park spokeswoman Kari Cobb said. □

Funeral held for US boy with rare brain infection

LABELLE, Florida (AP) — Nearly 1,000 people gathered for the funeral of a Florida boy who was infected by a rare and deadly brain eating amoeba.

The public visitation and service was held Saturday for 12-year-old Zachary Reyna at the LaBelle Middle School Gym. The burial service was held at the nearby cemetery. The family announced the funeral services on a Facebook posting.

Hundreds of family members, friends and even strangers attended the services. A slide show at the service displayed pictures of Reyna, some in his baseball uniform.

Reyna became infected Aug. 3 while knee boarding with friends. Doctors told the family the boy had extensive brain damage. The family decided earlier to donate his organs for others who were "waiting on a miracle." □

'Special' citizenship path ties immigration bill knot

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Congress wrestles with immigration legislation, a central question is whether the 11 million immigrants already in the United States illegally should get a path to citizenship.

The answer from a small but growing number of House Republicans is "yes," just as long as it's not the "special" path advocated by Democrats and passed by the Senate.

"There should be a pathway to citizenship — not a special pathway and not no pathway," Republican Rep. Jason Chaffetz told ABC 4 Utah after speaking at a recent town hall meeting in his Utah district. "But there has to be a legal, lawful way to go through this process that works, and right now it doesn't."

Many House Republicans say people who illegally crossed the border or overstayed their visas should not be rewarded with a special, tailor-made solution that awards them a prize of American citizenship, especially when millions are waiting in line to attempt the process through current legal channels.

It's far from clear, however, what a path to citizenship that's not a special path to citizenship might look like, or how many people it might help.

The phrase means different things to different people, and a large number of House Republicans oppose any approach that results in citizenship for people who are now in the country illegally. Some lawmakers say such immigrants should be permitted to attain legal worker status, but stop there and never progress to citizenship. That's a solution Democrats reject.

Nonetheless, advocates searching for a way ahead on one of President Barack Obama's second-term priorities see in the "no special path to citizenship" formulation the potential for compromise.

"I think there's a lot of space there," said Clarissa Martinez, director of civic engagement and im-



U.S. citizen Edgar Falcon and Maricruz Valtierra of Mexico laugh while El Paso congressman Beto O'Rourke and Judge Bill Moody congratulate them after the couple was married at U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas. Like many other couples made up of a US citizen and a foreigner, Falcon and Valtierra, who has been declared inadmissible after an immigration law violation, hope immigration reform will help them live together in the U.S.

(AP Photo/Juan Carlos Llorca)

migration at the National Council of La Raza, a Latino advocacy group. "And that's why I'm optimistic that once they start grappling more with details, that's when things start getting more real."

Once Congress returns from its summer break the week of Sept. 9, the focus will be on the Republican-led House. The Democratic-controlled Senate in June passed a far-reaching bill with some Republican support that includes a big, new investment in border security and remakes the system for legal immigration, in addition to creating a 13-year path to citizenship for those already here illegally.

House Republicans have

rejected the Senate approach, promising to proceed instead with narrowly focused bills, starting with border security.

The timing crunch, along

with the significant policy

and process disagreements,

has left some sup-

porters pessimistic about

the future of immigration

legislation.

They find hope, however, in some recent comments from House Republicans around the country suggesting they could support a solution that ends in citizenship at least for some who now lack legal status. □

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AP Analysis:**Big health-care, spending fight looms in Washington**

STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stand by for one of the nastiest and, perhaps most economically dangerous U.S. political fights in recent memory.

ernment to shut down for lack of funding. Conservative Republicans threaten one or both unless Democrats and the White House surrender to right wing demands to slash spending for President Barack Obama's

the debt ceiling or the budget without major spending cuts from Democrats. Heated rhetoric stemming from the differences that divide the two parties — Republicans' desire to reduce spending on large ben-

also concerns cuts that already have sliced huge chunks out of the defense spending, a burr under the saddle of Republicans, and government-funded social programs, part of the Democrats' political catechism. Congressional action is needed to lift those cuts, which were part of a 2011 deal that side-stepped debt default two years ago.

Those reductions run through 2021, but were intended to be so onerous to both political parties that they would be forced to compromise. That never happened as the nation's capital fell into the grip of a partisan stalemate not seen in decades.

Efforts to bridge the chasm during the August legislative break have proven a fool's errand, with neither side any closer to a big deal that would reduce the nation's deficit — the issue drives all others when it comes to any agreement on taxes and spending by an increasingly unpopular Washington government.

"The president has been trying for months, privately and quietly, with Republican leaders in the House and Senate to work out some sort of reasonable compromise. As of this date there is no evidence of progress," said Sen. Dick Durbin, a Democrat who is assistant majority leader

and whip. "I'm afraid we're going to go to the brink. I hope I'm wrong."

The White House says it will not negotiate over health care reforms, period.

First, the federal budget year ends on Sept. 30, and there is no agreement between members of the Republican-controlled House of Representatives and the Democrat-controlled Senate on a budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. Without a deal on a new spending plan or at least an agreement to temporarily continue funding at current levels, the government would be forced to shut-down. That happened in the mid-1990s when Bill Clinton was president, and it cost opposition Republicans dearly.

Then, within a couple of weeks, the government will reach its limit on borrowing, known as the debt limit. Unless Congress agrees to raise that limit, the government would likely default on some of its debt, which would be a first in the country's history. Until Obama was elected president in 2008, raising the debt limit was a matter of course. But Republican threats to block the increase in 2010, when they had regained control of the House, caused one of the global rating institutions to lower U.S. government creditworthiness for the first time. □



President Barack Obama gives his State of the Union address during a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington. As the Washington summer draws to a close, Congress returns to the capital next month with stark battle lines drawn on spending issues that, if left unresolved, could shove the United States into defaulting on its debt for the first time or force the government to shut down for lack of funding.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

As the languorous Washington summer draws to a close, Congress returns to the capital next month with stark battle lines drawn on spending issues that, if left unresolved, could shove the United States into defaulting on its debt for the first time or force the gov-

health care overhaul. While there is an internal debate in the Republican party over how to proceed, a growing number of legislators are concerned by what they perceive as overspending by the government, and they are determined to refuse action on

efit programs and Democrats' push for increased tax revenue — could cool as deadlines draw nearer. Republicans in particular are deeply divided on how far to push on denying a debt limit increase or shutting down the government over the budget. The fight



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Mary Cheney criticizes her sister on same-sex marriage

JONATHAN MARTIN

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Mary Cheney, the younger sister of Liz Cheney, a Wyoming Senate candidate, sharply criticized her sister's stance on same-sex marriage and urged her own Facebook friends to share the message.

Posting on Facebook this weekend, Mary Cheney, who is gay and married her longtime partner last year, wrote: "For the record, I love my sister, but she is dead wrong on the issue of marriage."

Their father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, supports same-sex marriage, and the younger Cheney echoed some of his language on the issue when she added, "Freedom means freedom for everyone."

"That means that all families - regardless of how they look or how they are made - all families are entitled to the same rights, privileges and protections as every other," Mary Cheney wrote.

Earlier Friday, Liz Cheney revealed her position on same-sex marriage, a topic she has kept relatively quiet about since declaring her candidacy in July against incumbent Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo.

"I am not pro-gay marriage," Liz Cheney said in a statement responding to an apparent push poll against her in Wyoming. "I believe the issue of marriage must be decided



Mary Cheney, second from left, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, watches President Barack Obama on a monitor in Washington. Mary Cheney, who is gay and married her longtime partner in 2012, sharply criticized her sister Liz Cheney's stance on same-sex marriage, who is a Wyoming U.S. Senate candidate.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

by the states, and by the people in the states, not by judges and not even by legislators, but by the people themselves."

That position - deferring to the will of the voters on a state-by-state basis - may represent something of a compromise between total support or opposition. But it did little to placate her sister.

"It's not something to be decided by a show of hands," Mary Cheney wrote.

And to emphasize that she was not shying away from drawing attention to her view, Mary Cheney concluded her Facebook post: "Please like and share if you agree."

In an email, Mary Cheney

declined to comment further on her sister's position, saying she would let her

Facebook post speak for itself. The Cheney family dispute mirrors the broad-

er disagreement among Republicans on same-sex marriage. □



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Egypt's Morsi to be tried for inciting violence

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's top prosecutor referred Sunday ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to trial on charges of inciting the killing of opponents protesting outside his palace while he was in office, the state news agency said. The military ousted Morsi on July 3 after millions took to the street demanding he step down. He's been held incommunicado since. Despite other accusations by prosecutors, Sunday's decision is his first referral to trial. No date was announced for the trial.

Morsi will be tried, along with 14 members of his Muslim Brotherhood, in a criminal court for allegedly committing acts of violence, and inciting the kill-

ing of at least 10 people. The case dates back to one of the deadliest bouts of violence during Morsi's one year in office. At least 100,000 protesters

gathered outside his presidential palace on Dec. 4, protesting a decree he issued to protect his decisions from judicial oversight and a highly disputed

draft constitution that was hurriedly adopted in the Islamist-dominated parliament. Protesters demanded he call off a referendum scheduled days later. The next day, Islamist groups and supporters of Morsi attacked protesters who camped out there, sparking deadly street battles that left at least 10 dead and sending chills among Morsi's opponents that he had relied on organized mobs to defend his palace. The state news agency said an investigation by prosecutors revealed that Morsi had asked the Republican Guard and the minister in charge of police to break up the sit-in, but they feared a bloody confrontation and declined. The agency said Morsi's aides then summoned their supporters to forcefully break up the sit-in. Officials from the Brotherhood and its political party deny using violence to quell critics and said supporters were defending the palace. They accused opponents of starting the battles and forcing away police that had been guarding the area. Those referred to trial with Morsi include the deputy leader of the Brotherhood's political party, Essam el-Erian, currently in hiding. They also include leading Brotherhood member Mohammed el-Beltagy, arrested this week, as well as leading pro-Brotherhood youth leaders who were video-taped during the street clashes on the front lines. Since Morsi's ouster, authorities have waged an intensive security crackdown on members of his group. The crackdown followed a violent breakup of a sit-in held by Morsi supporters for weeks demanding his reinstatement that left hundreds killed. □



Ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi holds a news conference in Cairo, Egypt in this 2012 file photo. Egypt's state news agency said Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013, the country's top prosecutor has referred ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to trial on charges of inciting the killing of opponents protesting outside his palace while he was in office.

(AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Yemen premier unharmed after gunmen attack

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANA'A, Yemen (AP) — Gunmen opened fire on the motorcade of Yemen's prime minister this weekend but he escaped unharmed, an aide said.

The attack on Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Bassindwa's convoy in the Yemeni capital comes after a senior intelligence officer was fatally shot in the country's south by unknown assailants, according to security officials.

Ali al-Sarari, a media aide to the prime minister, told The Associated Press the gunmen were riding in a vehicle without license plates and sprayed the speeding three-car convoy with bullets. Some of the vehicles were pockmarked with bullet holes but Bassindwa escaped unharmed, he said. Militants in Yemen have been behind a series of assassinations of security officers as the government battles with al-Qaida militants who have mainly operated in the country's south. Attempts on politicians are rare however. It is not clear if the attack on Bassindwa was an operation targeting him or part of the country's increasing lawlessness and tension. Yemen is still gripped by political infighting that followed a 2011 uprising against the former president. Bassindwa was appointed in late 2011 to head a coalition government comprised of ministers from both the opposition and officials from the regime of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who later stepped down in face of popular protest. In nearly a year of turmoil, security collapsed in some parts of Yemen. □

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Australian PM Rudd makes final campaign pitch

ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has made his final major campaign pitch to revive his Labor Party's chances at elections this week, promising tax breaks for small businesses and more work for local contractors on infrastructure projects if his government is re-elected for a third term. Rudd officially launched his center-left party's campaign in his hometown of Brisbane on Sunday. It is the capital of Queensland, a battleground state for swing seats that will decide the election Sept. 7.

Rudd — who was dumped as prime minister by his own government colleagues in 2010, only to regain the top job in a similar leadership wrangle in June — dismissed opinion polls that show opposition leader Tony Abbott's conservative coalition is headed for a clear victory.

"I've been in tougher spots than this and have come from behind before," Rudd told his audience of party faithful.

"For those who say the fight is up, I say: 'You haven't seen anything yet,'" he added.

The opposition has framed the election as a referendum on the carbon tax paid by Australia's worst greenhouse-gas polluters, which Abbot has promised to abolish.

Rudd's government argues the election is about the "wrong priorities" a conservative government would implement, including a policy of paying mothers up to 75,000 Australian dollars (\$67,000) for six months' maternity leave regardless of how wealthy they are.

Labor has ruled for almost six years under the leaderships of Rudd and the deputy who replaced him for three years, Julia Gillard. He said the end of an Australian mining boom, bankrolled by China, demands new policies that only Labor can provide to diversify the slowing economy. Among election promises announced Sunday, Rudd said a Labor government would increase tax deductions that 3.2 million small businesses could claim on equipment investment. The pledge would cost the government AU\$200 million over four years in lost tax revenue.

The government would also create between AU\$156 million and AU\$624 million in additional work for Australian industry a year by legislating to ensure that infrastructure projects worth more than AU\$300 million engage more local contractors.

The government is under fire over debt left created by stimulus spending that kept Australia out of recession during the global economic crisis.

The government's efforts to deliver a surplus budget have been frustrated by the Chinese industrial slowdown, which has hurt the mining sector, slowing the economy and dampening company tax revenues. While polls show Rudd remains a more popular choice of leader than Abbott, Labor's popularity lags below that of the opposition coalition.

Rudd's return to the leadership after his party dumped deeply unpopular Gillard brought a surge in Labor's polling, but Rudd has failed to maintain that momentum through the campaign.

Rudd has blamed negative coverage from News Corp., which owns 70 percent of Australia's newspapers.

Sydney's The Sunday Telegraph, Australia's largest circulating newspaper which is owned by News Corp., filled its front page

with a photograph of Abbott and the headline: "Australia Needs Tony."

"It seems an understatement to observe that the Labor-led government of the past six years has been a grave disappointment," the newspaper's editorial said.

"Another three years of Labor would be an unmitigated disaster," it added. The Sun-Herald, the newspaper's rival in Australia's biggest city owned by Australia's second-largest newspaper publisher, Fairfax Media, echoed the call for a change of government.

"They've been negative, incoherent, incohesive and — worst of all — uninspiring," The Sun-Herald editorial said. □



Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, left, with his family, smile to supporters during the Australian Labor Party's campaign launch in Brisbane, Australia, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013. Australians head to the polls to vote in national elections on Sept. 7.

(AP Photo/Tertius Pickard)

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Mandela discharged from hospital, returns home

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Nelson Mandela went home in an ambulance on Sunday after nearly three months in a hospital that became the focus of a global outpouring of concern, but authorities said the health of the former South African president remained critical and sometimes unstable.

The return of the 95-year-old leader of the anti-apartheid movement to his home in an affluent neighborhood of Johannesburg allows his family to share time with him in a more intimate setting.

The office of South African President Jacob Zuma

said Mandela will receive the same level of intensive care that he did in the hospital, administered by the same doctors.

Zuma's office said the team of doctors treating Mandela, also known by his clan name Madiba, is "convinced that he will receive the same level of intensive care at his Houghton home that he received in Pretoria. His home has been reconfigured to allow him to receive intensive care there." The statement also said: "If there are health conditions that warrant another admission to hospital in future, this will be done."

Mandela had been treated in a hospital in Pretoria, about 31 miles (50 kilometers) from Johannesburg,



An ambulance transporting former South African president Nelson Mandela arrives at the home of the former statesman in Johannesburg, South Africa, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013. Mandela has been in hospital for more than two months fighting a recurring lung infection.

(AP Photo / Denis Farrell)

and the areas near the entrances to both the hospital and his home became makeshift shrines where people sang, prayed and left messages of support for a man who steered South Africa from white minority rule to democratic rule in a spirit of reconciliation that inspired the world. Mandela was admitted to the hospital on June 8 for what the government described as a recurring lung

infection. Legal papers filed by his family said he was on life support, and many South Africans feared the man widely viewed as the "father of the nation" was close to death.

One of Mandela's daughters, Makaziwe Mandela, told The Associated Press as she left her father's home that the family was "happy that he is home."

Another Mandela family member, grandson Mandla

Mandela, said the former president's return home was a "day of celebration." Madiba's discharge was "particularly heartening because it flies in the face of those who have been busy spreading lies that he was in a 'vegetative state' and just waiting for his support machines to be switched off," the South African Press Association quoted Mandla Mandela as saying. □

North Korea: US threat behind aborting envoy's trip

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea said it rescinded its invitation for a U.S. envoy to visit the country to seek the freedom of an American detainee because Washington perpetrated a "grave provocation" by allegedly mobilizing nuclear-capable bombers during recent military drills with Seoul.

The moves signal that possible informal negotiations between the two countries over detainee Ken-

neth Bae were not going smoothly, with Pyongyang seeking some concessions from Washington in return for releasing the man, analysts said.

Bob King, the U.S. special envoy for North Korean human rights, had been scheduled to travel to Pyongyang on Friday for talks on Bae, a 45-year-old tour operator and Christian missionary who has been detained since November for committing "hostile acts." He was sentenced in April to 15 years of hard

labor. An unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said in remarks carried by state media late Saturday that his country intended to allow King's visit even though the U.S. and South Korea were conducting annual military drills. But he said the U.S. "beclouded the hard-won atmosphere of humanitarian dialogue in a moment" by allegedly infiltrating B-52H strategic bombers into the sky above the peninsula during the exercises. □



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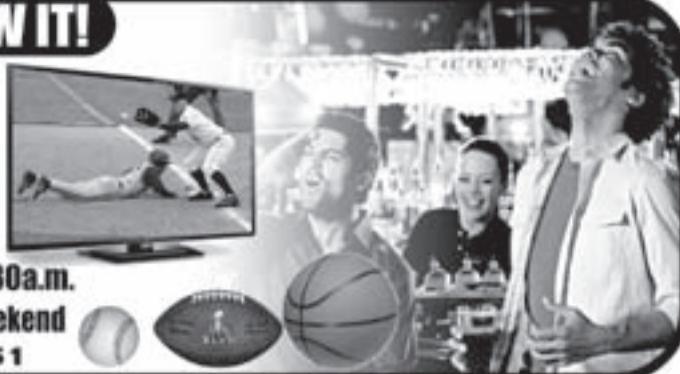


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India convicts youngest Delhi gang rape defendant

ASHOK SHARMA

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — An Indian juvenile court this weekend handed down the first conviction in the fatal gang rape of a young woman on a moving New Delhi bus, convicting a teenager of rape and murder and sentencing him to three years in a reform home, lawyers said.

The victim's parents denounced the sentence, which was the maximum the defendant faced. The family had long insisted the teen, who was 17 at the time of the December attack and is now 18, be tried as an adult — and thus face the death penalty — insisting he was the most brutal of the woman's attackers.

"He should be hanged irrespective of whether he is a juvenile or not. He should

be punished for what he did to my daughter," the victim's mother, Asha Devi, told reporters after the verdict was announced.

Indian law forbids the publication of the teen's name because he was sentenced in a juvenile court. The attack, which left the 23-year-old victim with such extensive internal injuries that she died two weeks later, sparked protests across the country and led to reforms of India's antiquated sexual violence laws. The government, facing immense public pressure, had promised swift justice in the case. The convicted teen was one of six people accused of tricking the woman and her male companion into boarding an off-duty bus Dec. 16 after they had seen an afternoon showing of "Life of Pi" at an

upscale shopping mall. Police say the men raped the woman and used a metal bar to inflict massive internal injuries to her. They also beat her companion. The victims were dumped naked on the roadside, and the woman later died from her injuries in a Singapore hospital.

The victim's father said the family was deeply disap-

pointed with the sentence. "This is completely unacceptable to us," Badrinath Singh said. "We are not satisfied with this outcome. He is virtually being set free. This is very wrong."

"No family should have a daughter if this is the fate that lies ahead for women. In this country, it is crime to be born a girl," he said. Indian law forbids the pub-

lication of the names of rape victims, even if they die. S.K. Singh, a lawyer for the victim's family, said they would challenge the juvenile court's verdict in a higher court.

"We will also seek a review of the man's age by a medical panel, since we believe he was not a juvenile when the incident took place," he said. □



Delhi police officers escort a juvenile convicted of rape, outside the Juvenile justice board in New Delhi, India, Saturday, Aug. 31, 2013. An Indian juvenile court this weekend handed down the first conviction in the fatal gang rape of a young woman on a moving New Delhi bus, convicting the teenager of rape and murder and sentencing him to three years in a reform home, lawyers said.

(AP Photo/Altaf Qadri)

Palestinian-Israeli meet delayed

JERUSALEM (AP) — A planned meeting between Israeli lawmakers and the Palestinian president has been postponed, Israeli and Palestinian officials said Sunday.

The lawmakers had planned on traveling to President Mahmoud Abbas' West Bank headquarters on Tuesday. The lawmakers belong to a new caucus formed to support recently relaunched peace talks.

Officials on both sides said Sunday that the meeting

had been delayed. An Israeli spokeswoman cited the crisis in nearby Syria and high-level Palestinian meetings Abbas is holding this week. She says the meeting is expected to take place in the coming weeks. Palestinian officials said the chief Israeli and Palestinian negotiators held a new round of talks on Saturday and are to meet again on Tuesday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the sides are not supposed to discuss the negotiations. □

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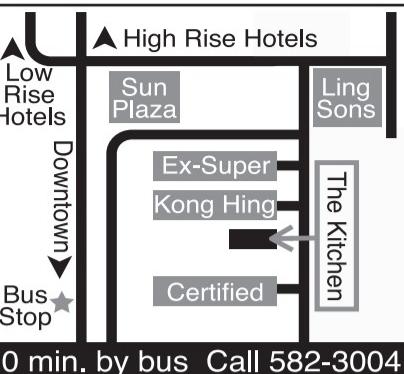
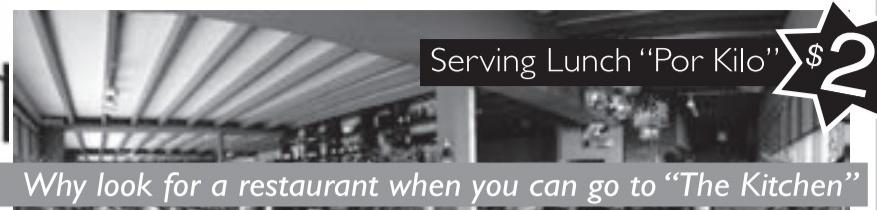
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Chinese exec with canal dream under scrutiny

M. WEISSENSTEIN**LUIS GALEANO****Associated Press****MANAGUA, Nicaragua**

(AP) — When President Daniel Ortega granted a Chinese telecommunications executive exclusive rights to develop a \$40 billion canal through Nicaragua and operate it for 100 years, his administration touted the CEO's record of success heading a wireless communications firm with projects in 20 countries.

Wang Jing's company, Xinwei, boasted that it had orchestrated an array of deals worth more than \$5 billion over the last three years, in places as far-flung as Zimbabwe and Ukraine. Its own literature describes the company as possessing "huge strength and sublime eminence in the global communications industry."

But an examination of those claims by The Associated Press around the world paints a different picture. While at least some of Xinwei's domestic enterprises appear to be successful, outside of China, promises to build revolutionary new telecom networks have yet to materialize.

And deals with local partners have been marred by false starts and poor performance.

In 12 of the 20 countries where Wang's Xinwei Telecom Enterprise Group and associated companies say they've done business, the AP found no evidence of a successful, large-scale project up and running.

In the other eight, either analysts and major telecom firms said they had not heard of the company, or Xinwei did not provide enough details about its partners or projects to allow its record to be examined. In Cambodia, a promised high-tech new wireless net-

work has yet to launch nationwide after unexplained delays.

In Zimbabwe, officials say Xinwei's partner had its license pulled by regulators and assets seized by a local bank.

And in Nicaragua, where Wang has formed a new company to build a waterway that could be three times the length of the Pan-

Chinese overseas investment for the Heritage Foundation. "At this point it's just a stunt."

Beijing-based Xinwei told AP that its global telecom plans were moving forward in at least five countries outside China and it is working with investors to fund what it expects to be billions of dollars of new networks in Russia and Ukraine. It ac-

quest for proposals for a new wireless voice and broadband system last year, but the initial asking price for the concession was \$90 million, according to an official with one of Xinwei's competitors, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear that it would hurt his relations with the Nicaraguan government. Wang paid just \$20 million



Wang Jing, CEO of Xinwei Telecom Enterprise Group, speaks during an interview in front of a painting featuring the late Communist leader Mao Zedong and his Red Army commanders in a meeting room of the company's headquarters in Beijing, China, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alexander F. Yuan)

ama Canal, there is no sign of a promised \$700 million national wireless network more than a year after he announced his intent to build it.

That record is raising doubts among local businessmen, political opposition leaders and outside experts about the ability of Wang's new company to build the canal, a gargantuan project that has been considered and abandoned for centuries.

"This is just orders of magnitude beyond anything that they're capable of," said Derek Scissors, a senior research fellow who monitors

knowledged that it had run into challenges in several countries, problems that ranged, it said, from malicious underpricing by competitors to delays in receiving government licenses.

"The company is fast-growing. It plans to become a first-class global company within the industry in years. We are making good progress toward the goal and understand there is much work to do," Xinwei said. "The progress of each project depends on our clients' plans."

The Nicaraguan government has declined to release any details of its re-

in January after three of the region's major cellular service providers — Claro, Movistar and the Costa Rican Institute of Electricity — dropped out of the bidding, the official said.

Many in Nicaragua see Xinwei's track record as a poor omen for Wang Jing's goal of building the canal, a centuries-old dream for global traders. The project was repeatedly considered by the U.S. in the 19th century before Washington decided to put its money on the shorter Panama option, itself considered one of the greatest engineering feats of modern history. □

LATIN BRIEFS

Venezuela, Guyana discuss Petrocaribe

GEORGETOWN, Guyana

(AP) — Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro met Saturday with Guyana's leader during a one-day visit to talk about economic and political issues. Maduro was expected to talk with Guyana president Donald Ramotar about Venezuela's Petrocaribe program, which allows countries to pay for oil imports with local commodities such as rice and bananas. The leaders were expected to review an eight-year-old Petrocaribe agreement that allows Guyana to buy some 5,000 barrels of oil from Venezuela in exchange for commodities such as white rice. Finance Minister Ashni Singh said Guyana hopes to extend the agreement with Venezuela.

Guyana: Lightning kills 1, several hurt

GEORGETOWN, Guyana

(AP) — Lightning strikes in the South American country of Guyana have killed a 17-year-old sugarcane worker and injured seven others. The strikes have led the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation to review policies about staff working in fields during rain and thunderstorms. Company Director Paul Bhim told The Associated Press Saturday that while he supports the review, it would be hard to predict where storms will strike and to get thousands of workers out of the field quickly. Authorities say 17-year-old Klein Roberts was found dead in an open field just west of the capital of Georgetown on Thursday. □

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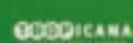
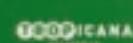
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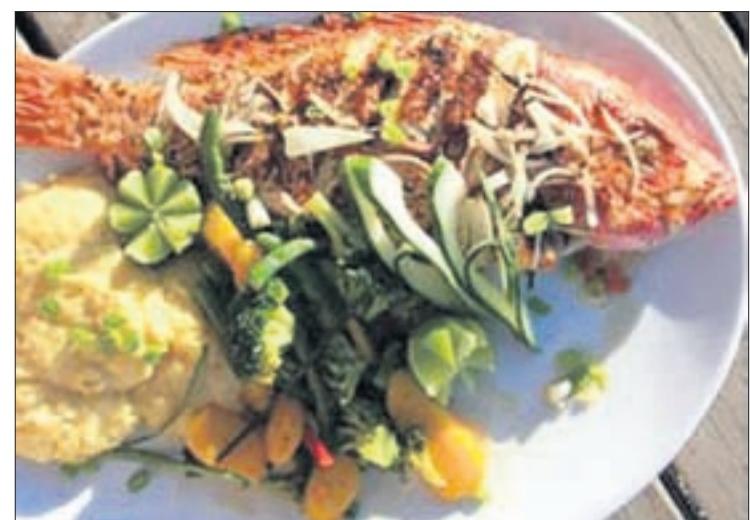
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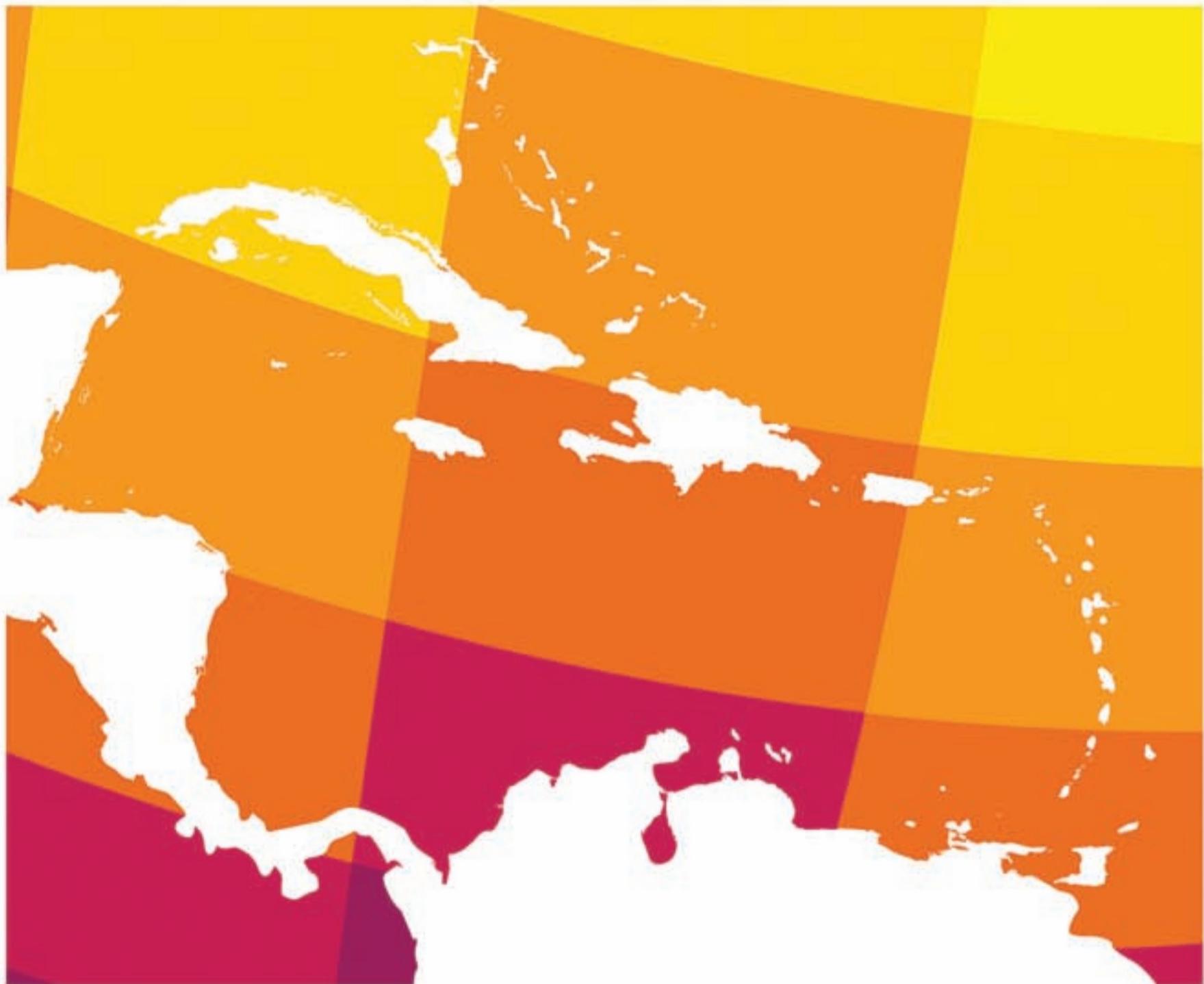
At Beth Israel Synagogue: Jewish Community of Aruba invites visitors to Rosh Hashanah services

ORANJESTAD - One of the principles of Jewish faith is the Repair of Our Broken World (Tikkun Olam). Every Jew must become involved in this daunting task. Awareness of one's weaknesses and offenses against G-d and our fellow man must be accompanied by corrective action to make this a better world, with kinder and more sensitive human beings. That is

the meaning of the Jewish High Holidays. The Jewish Community of Aruba, located at A. Lacle Blvd. # 2, cordially invites visitors to our island to the 5774 Rosh Hashanah religious services lead by Rabbi Daniel Kripner on Wednesday, September 4th, at 6:30 P.M. For more information please call us 582-3272 or email us at: info@bethisraelaruba.com.□

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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY****Williams beats Stephens to reach U.S. Open quarters**

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Serena Williams avenged her major loss to Sloane Stephens, pulling away from the young American for a 6-4, 6-1 win to return to the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

Stephens beat a hobbling Williams in the quarters of the Australian Open in January.

"She's definitely a good player, so it felt like something bigger, but I just had to stay focused for the moment," Williams said in an on-court interview.

In the rematch Sunday, the 16-time Grand Slam champion served big and controlled points against the 20-year-old. From 4-4 in the first set, Williams won eight of the last nine games.

"The whole time I just tried to do what I wanted," she said. "Stay calm, stay relaxed, stay composed."

The 15th-seeded Stephens hung with the defending champ for most of the first set. After Williams broke to go up 4-2, she broke right back. Serving at 4-5, Stephens had six of her 29 unforced errors. She was able to save two set points, but twice failed to capitalize when she had a chance to



Serena Williams reacts between points against Sloane Stephens during the fourth round of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

close out the game.

When Stephens hit a forehand wide, Williams had the set, and she took over from there.

"Obviously, she's No. 1 in the world for a reason," Stephens said. "I thought she played really well herself. Obviously, it didn't go how I wanted. The second set got away from me a little bit. All in all, I thought I

competed well and played well. That's all you can do, really."

Williams will face 18th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro, who needed 2 hours, 41 minutes to edge eighth-seeded Angelique Kerber 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Earlier on a humid day at Arthur Ashe Stadium, defending men's champion Andy Murray staggered

around the court between points.

Once a point started, he sprinted down every ball, as usual. Struggling with his breathing, Murray needed a set to find his rhythm against 47th-ranked Florian Mayer, then rolled the rest of the way to a 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-2 victory in the third round.

It's classic Murray to gri-

mace in apparent pain after losing a point, then race across the court to hit a winner with no hint of discomfort. Even if his expressions didn't show it, the third-seeded Scot is enjoying the role of reigning champ at Flushing Meadows.

It was here a year ago that he cured 76 years of tennis misery for Britain, its first men's Grand Slam winner since 1936. Then back home for Wimbledon in July he ended its drought there, too, with the first title in 77 years. "The expectations are higher, but there's not as much pressure to win," Murray said in an on-court interview. "I feel much more comfortable coming into these events than this time last year."

He'll next face 65th-ranked Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan, who won a five-setter against No. 20-seeded Andreas Seppi 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 3-6, 6-1. Fifth-seeded Tomas Berdych played his match on the Grandstand, the third-largest stadium at the U.S. Open. In a sport dominated by four players, Berdych is easily overlooked.

Continued on Page 20



New York Giants defensive back David Caldwell (41) and tackle Matt McCants (74) sack New England Patriots quarterback Tim Tebow (5) during the third quarter of an NFL preseason football game Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

Tebow cut by Pats, plans to keep playing

HOWARD ULMAN
AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Massachusetts (AP) — Tim Tebow hasn't given up hope of playing in the NFL after being cut by the New England Patriots.

"I will remain in relentless pursuit of continuing my lifelong dream of being an NFL quarterback," he tweeted Saturday.

He has now been let go by his third team in 18 months. With the regular season just five days away, his chances of immediately catching on with another team seem slim.

Tebow thanked owner Robert

Kraft, coach Bill Belichick and offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels after failing to survive New England's mandatory roster cut to 53 players. He also thanked the "entire Patriots organization for giving me the opportunity to be a part of such a classy organization."

Tebow's stay with the Patriots lasted just under 12 weeks and could be the end of his NFL career. The Heisman Trophy winner played in three of New England's four preseason games and was sacked four times in the finale, a 28-20 win over the New York Giants on Thursday night.

The Patriots have carried just two quarterbacks in three of the past four seasons. And with Ryan Mallett entrenched as the backup to Tom Brady, Tebow's challenge was a difficult one, even before the preseason started. Then, he went out and posted a quarterback rating of just 47.2 and threw two touchdown passes to go with two interceptions and seven sacks.

When New England signed him June 11, it appeared Belichick might find other positions for him, given his versatility and mobility.

Continued on next page

Tebow

Continued from page 18

But Tebow never worked out with any unit other than the quarterbacks. After sitting out the third preseason game, a 40-9 loss at Detroit, Tebow completed 6 of 11 passes for 91 yards with two touchdowns and one interception against the Giants. He also ran six times for 30 yards.

"It's not just one game (that matters)," Belichick said Friday about the player evaluation process, "although every game is important. But the body of work, the camp, the rate of improvement, the ability to do the things that players are going to be asked to do at their respective positions (also matters)."

Tebow previously played for the Denver Broncos and New York Jets. In college, he was a part of two national championship teams at Florida.

Signing Tebow posed little

financial risk to the Patriots. Two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press that Tebow signed for two years but with no guaranteed money. One person said he would make the veteran's minimum salary, \$630,000 in 2013, with incentives.

Tebow's last play with the Patriots, and perhaps in the NFL, was a 9-yard touchdown to rookie free agent Quentin Sims with six seconds left against the Giants.

After the game, Tebow said he wasn't sure his performance would be enough to keep him on the team.

But he didn't plan to worry. He would "go to sleep when I get home, wake up, come work out, watch the film," he said. "See what I did good, see what I did bad, try to learn from it and get better."

Tebow became the center ring of a media circus last season with the Jets as quarterback Mark Sanchez struggled.

But Tebow threw just eight passes that season and was released April 29. He wasn't picked up until six weeks later, when he took part in the first day of the Patriots' three-day minicamp.

With Brady at quarterback and Belichick adept at handling distractions, Tebow's profile was much lower in New England.

"First and foremost, I just want to thank the Patriots for giving me an opportunity," Tebow said after his first practice. "I'm looking forward to working hard every single day and getting a lot better and learning under some great people.

So that's all I got, but thank you all so much and God bless. I'm sure we'll be talking more soon."

The Patriots limited the attention on Tebow that day by allowing him to speak for just 40 seconds and to



New England Patriots quarterback Tim Tebow (5) looks for a receiver as New York Giants defensive end Justin Trattou (69) closes in during the third quarter of an NFL preseason football game Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

take no questions.

He was praised this week by Belichick and Kraft, but neither gave an indication of whether he would make the team.

"I learned very early on in my career at Florida to worry about what I can

control and the things that I can't control I'm not going to spend time worrying about," Tebow said Monday. "But I can control my attitude, my focus every single day and those are the things that I'm going to worry about." □

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U.S. Open

Continued from page 18

But he is cruising so far at Flushing Meadows, where he reached the semifinals last year after beating Roger Federer.

The Czech routed No. 31-seeded Julien Benneteau 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 and has yet to drop a set at this year's U.S. Open.

Berdych, who lost to Rafael Nadal in the 2010 Wimbledon final, will face ninth-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka in the round of 16.

Wawrinka beat Marcos Baghdatis 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (1), 7-6 (7).

Lleyton Hewitt, the 2001

U.S. Open champ, returned to the round of 16 at Flushing Meadows for the first time since 2006. At age 32, the Australian is back from years of injuries to make another run. He beat 102nd-ranked Evgeny Donskoy 6-3, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-1. Bob and Mike Bryan were down a set and a break against unseeded Canadians Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil in their third-round doubles match before rallying for a 6-7 (1), 7-5, 6-2 victory. The defending champs are trying to become the first men's



Bob Bryan, left, and Mike Bryan talk between points against Daniel Nestor, of Canada, and Vasek Pospisil, of Canada, during a doubles match at the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

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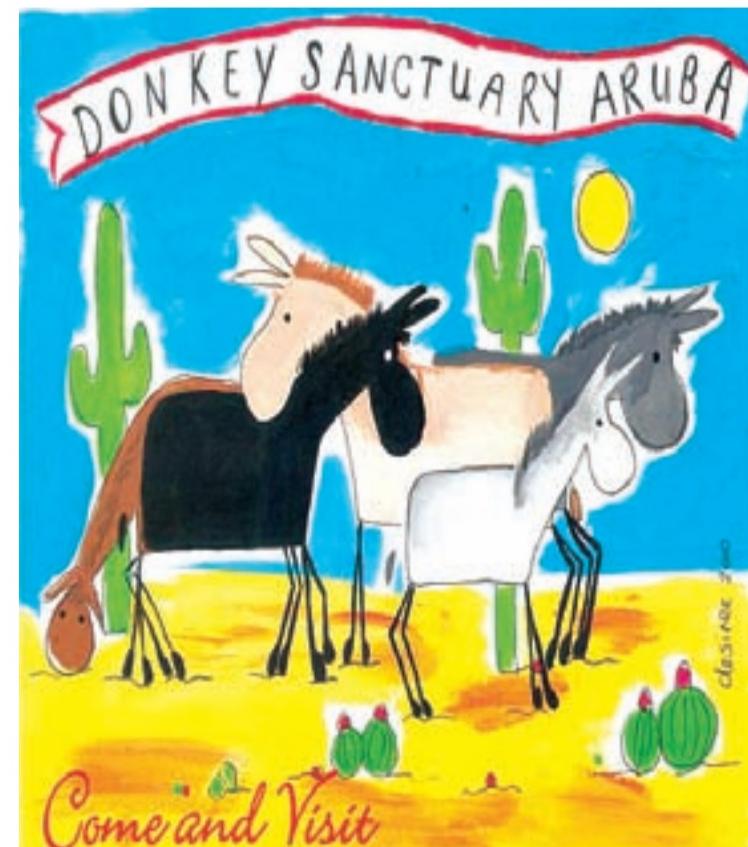
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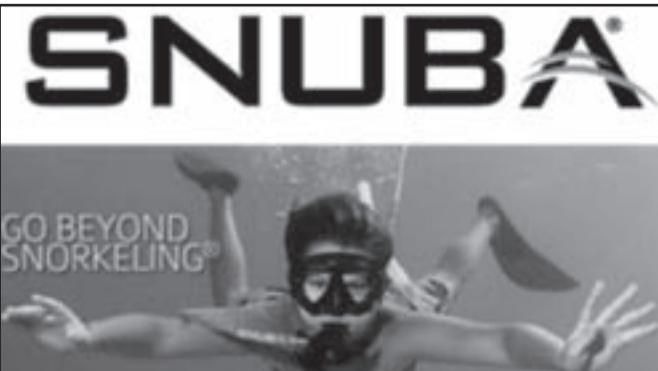


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double team of the Open era, and the first since 1951, to win all four major tournaments in the same year. They've already achieved a "Bryan Slam" with four straight titles starting with the 2012 U.S. Open. Struggling with returning serve, the top-seeded Bryans switched sides after the opening set for the first time in about three years.

After going down a break at 3-4 in the second set, the American twins immediately broke back against the 40-year-old Nestor's serve. They clinched the set by breaking his serve again, with Nestor double-faulting twice in the game, including on match point. The Bryans broke his serve twice more in the third set to advance. □



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Garcia leads a low-scoring pace in Boston

DOUG FERGUSON**AP Golf Writer****NORTON, Massachusetts (AP)**

On a TPC Boston softened by so much rain that the third round Sunday had to be started over, Sergio Garcia kept his nose in front and gave himself a two-shot cushion at the Deutsche Bank Championship with a birdie on the final hole as darkness settled over New England.

Nothing is close to being settled at this FedEx Cup playoff event.

Garcia shot a 65 and was at 19-under 194, a two-shot lead over Henrik Stenson, perhaps the hottest player in golf with two runner-up finishes and two third-place finishes in his last five events. The Swede went birdie-for-birdie with Garcia for much of the overcast day until a three-putt bogey on the 17th caused him to settle for a 66.

Graham DeLaet of Canada all but locked up a spot on the Presidents Cup team with a 62 that left him three shots behind with Steve Stricker, who had a 63 and took a big step toward making the U.S. team

for the matches next month at Muirfield Village.

PGA champion Jason Dufner had a share of the lead until cooling off on the back nine. He had a 66 and was tied for fifth at 15-under 198 with Robert Castro (68).

The scoring was simply relentless on a course that is long and wide with pristine conditions. The TPC Boston became a push-over with such soft conditions, and it became even easier because players were allowed to lift, clean and place their golf balls through the green.

About the only ones who couldn't keep up were the star attractions at the start of the week — Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.

Mickelson, who started the third round five shots out of the lead, had his second straight 71, and this one wasn't exciting at all. He had three birdies, three bogeys, 12 pars and wound up 12 shots behind.

Woods didn't get anything going early and fell apart on the back nine, starting with a tee shot into a hazard well right of the 10th fairway. He began the back

nine with three straight bogeys and ended with a three-putt par on the 18th for a 1-over 72. It ended six straight rounds in the 60s in the FedEx Cup playoffs, and much worse, left him with no chance of winning going into the off week. He was 13 shots back.

"I just didn't have it today," Woods said. "I just didn't hit it well. I didn't make anything. I had a bad day at the wrong time."

The average score was 68.2, and anything higher than that meant losing ground.

Going into the Labor Day final round, 25 players have posted all three rounds in the 60s, and most of them don't have a chance. There were 332 birdies and 10 eagles Sunday, meaning players had sub-par holes a whopping 32 percent of the time.

"We can't control the weather," Garcia said. "And you've just got to go out there and try to play the best you can. And I was very happy to see that my best was 6-under."

Monday is filled with plenty of ramifications.



Sergio Garcia, of Spain, tips his cap after finishing in the lead at 19-under par during the third round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

Garcia is trying to end a troublesome season with his first PGA Tour win, trying to move past his humbling moment this spring when a public spat with Woods led to Garcia making a racially insensitive "fried chicken" comment at a London dinner. Stenson has done everything but win in the last two months — third at the Scottish Open and PGA Championship, runner-up at the British Open and a World Golf Championship. The top 70 in the FedEx

Cup advance to the third playoff event in two weeks north of Chicago. Ernie Els is among those on the cusp. Ian Poulter, despite a pair of late bogeys, had a 66 and was six shots out of the lead. He appears safe for Chicago, and now can try to think about qualifying for the Tour Championship for the first time.

Rory McIlroy made the cut on the number and still was lingering at the bottom of the pack after a double bogey. □

Pagenaud wins crash-filled Grand Prix of Baltimore



Simon Pagenaud, of France, drives during the IndyCar Grand Prix of Baltimore auto race on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

DAVID GINSBURG**AP Sports Writer**

BALTIMORE (AP) — Simon Pagenaud emerged as the winner of a collision-marred Grand Prix of Baltimore on Sunday, charging to the lead after a series of mishaps involving several other contenders — including one involving rivals Scott Dixon and Will Power.

It was the second career win for Pagenaud, both this year. The 29-year-old Frenchman became the third driver to win in three years on the bumpy, chal-

lenging street course that runs through the middle of the city. Josef Newgarden was second, the best finish of his career, and Sébastien Bourdais took third.

Last week at Sonoma, Dixon led until he received a drive-through penalty with 15 laps to go for hitting a tire in the left hand of Power's tire holder. Dixon won the race.

In this one, Power swerved right in a crowd in front of Dixon during a restart on the 53rd lap. Power clipped the wall, and Dixon lost

control and smacked into the wall, ending his day.

Power made it to the pit, but he was given a penalty for interference and finished 18th, one spot ahead of Dixon. The restart came after a pileup on the turn in front of the baseball stadium. On Lap 48, Graham Rahal spun Dixon and created a logjam involving five cars. Minutes before that, IndyCar points leader Helio Castroneves received a black flag for a safety violation during a restart. Castroneves finished ninth. □



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Jamaica's Bailey-Cole wins 100 race in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — Jamaica's Kemar Bailey-Cole won the 100-meter race at the ISTAF meet in Berlin for the second year in a row on Sunday.

Bailey-Cole ran 10.04 seconds to finish ahead of 2003 world champion Kim Collins of St. Kitts and Nevis, and Jaysuma Saidy Ndure of Norway. American Jeffrey Demps was fourth in 10.25.

"I did not focus on time," the 21-year-old Bailey-Cole said. "The most important thing was to win this race. I came here just like a year ago and defended my victory. So, I did the job."

LaKeisha Lawson of the United States claimed the women's race in 11.18, ahead of Germany's Verena Sailer and Ashleigh Nelson of Britain.

"I got very close to my personal record and I still have two more competitions to even improve it," Lawson



Anita Wlodarczyk from Poland throws the hammer during the women's hammer throw competition at the ISTAF Athletics Meeting in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

said.

Tiffany Townsend secured another American victory in the 200, winning in 22.77 ahead of compatriot Charonda Williams and Kerron Stewart of Jamaica.

Another American, Natasha Hastings, was fourth. Three-time world champion Robert Harting delighted his hometown fans by winning the discus with a throw of 69.02 meters.

Harting was pushed hard by compatriot Martin Wiener, who threw 66.73 meters.

"I didn't think it was fair that Martin threw so far," Harting joked.

"But I take it as healthy competition. He woke me up."

Poland's Robert Urbanek and Piotr Malachowski were third and fourth, respectively.

There were more cheers among the 55,000 fans at the Olympic Stadium for Germans Christian Reif and David Storl, who claimed victories in the long jump and shot put, respectively. Hillary Kipsang Yego of Kenya claimed victory in the men's 3,000 steeplechase in 8 minutes, 8.84 seconds, while Turkey's Ilham Tanui Ozbilin won the 1,500 in 3:35.58 and Mohammed Aman of Ethiopia claimed the 800 in 1:43.97.

"The result is all right,"

said Aman, the only one of three individual world champions to claim victory.

Russia's Maria Abakumova set a meet record of 70.53 meters to win the javelin, ahead of Linda Stahl of Germany and the German world champion Christina Obergfoell.

"I have to admit that I am thinking about the world record now. My family and my whole team help me believe I can make this dream come true," Abakumova said with an eye on Barbora Spotakova's mark of 72.28 meters set by the Czech in 2008.

Olympic and world champion Valerie Adams of New Zealand claimed the women's shot put with a throw of 20.58 meters.

"This was my last competition of the year and I am pretty tired," Adams said. "But I am still happy with my shape." □



Daniel Moreno of Spain wins the fourth stage of the Spanish Vuelta, a 189-kilometer (117-mile) ride starting in Lalín and finishing at the Atlantic coast in Fisterra, Spain, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2013.

Associated Press

VALDEPENAS DE JAEN, Spain (AP) — Daniel Moreno took the lead of the Spanish Vuelta on Sunday after winning his second stage in six days with an impressive uphill push to

separate from the pack. The Katusha rider broke away on the steep ramp to the finish line to snatch the leader's red jersey from Nicolas Roche by one second in the overall stand-

Moreno takes Vuelta lead with 2nd stage win

ings.

Moreno also won the fourth stage on Tuesday. He finished Sunday's ninth stage, a 163-kilometer (104-mile) mountainous ride from Antequera to Valdepenas de Jaen, with a time of 4 hours, 18 minutes, 57 seconds.

Fellow Spaniards Alejandro Valverde and Joaquim Rodriguez, also of Katusha, crossed next four seconds later. "I can't ask for more," said the 32-year-old Moreno, who has never led the Vuelta before. "I pushed forward and was able to get there in the end, even if I had my doubts during the last meters."

After coasting through rolling olive groves, the course took the riders up a category-two climb that broke the peloton into pieces.

Those left in the leading group following the nervy descent faced a 2-kilometer uphill stretch with the incline reaching 30 degrees where Moreno launched his attack.

With overnight leader Roche now one second behind Moreno, Giro d'Italia winner Vincenzo Nibali is third at 19 seconds behind.

Valverde moved into fourth at 22 seconds back, while Rodriguez is 56 seconds off his teammate's

leading pace.

Despite becoming the new leader, Moreno said he was still riding to support Rodriguez's chances of winning his first grand tour.

"Of course, we only have one leader," Moreno said. "Tomorrow we have a tough day and we hope that both Purito (Rodriguez) and I have a good day."

Monday's stage is a 187-kilometer (116-mile) mountainous ride starting in Torredelcampo and finishing with a special-category climb to a summit finish at Alto Hazallanas.

The three-week race finishes in Madrid on Sept. 15. □



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Federal cuts shelf Silicon Valley patent office

By MARTHA MENDOZA
AP National Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) -- Silicon Valley's high-tech firms are fighting what they consider a deeply personal federal cut this summer that shelves a planned patent office in this innovation-fueled region. While most of the country is feeling some pinch from the automatic budget cuts known as sequestration, tech leaders say this one is unique and unfair, because the Commerce Department's promised satellite patent offices were never going to be funded by taxpayers. Instead, they're supported by the \$2.8 billion in annual patent fees collected from inventors, entrepreneurs and companies. "We were really upset," said Emily Lam, a director at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, an association representing local high tech firms. "It makes absolutely no sense that an office funded almost entirely by fees would be subject to sequester."

But U.S. Patent and Trademark Office chief financial officer Tony Scardino said the government's across-the-board austerity policy doesn't make exceptions for fee-supported programs. And if there's a "continuing budgetary stalemate" this fall, he said that could cause further delays. Silicon Valley firms seek more U.S. patents than any other region in the world, and San Jose is the nation's top patent-producing city, with 7,074 patents last year. And California is the nation's patent leader, with seven of the top 10 patent-producing cities. The U.S. Patent Office currently has a backlog of 590,000 nationwide, and it can take more than two years to have an application reviewed. Until two years ago, the only U.S. Patent and Trademark Office was in Arlington, Va. Silicon Valley companies often would have to send a chief scientist to Arlington for a few days to meet with examiners, losing valuable time and money. Then a 2011 law raised patent fees in exchange for promises from officials to use those new revenues to speed up the patent process and establish four satel-



Bella, Petzila's mascot, is posed for a photo next to the company's product, a device that allows pet owner to communicate with their pets remotely, on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, in San Jose, Calif.

Associated Press

lite offices for the first time in the agency's 200-plus year history. But that's not exactly what happened. With budget cuts came a federal decision that 8.6 percent of all patent fees are immediately diverted from the Patent Office into the U.S. Treasury; in total, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office will lose between \$120 million and \$130 million in patent fees it collects this year. There are three satellite office projects underway: the first opened in Detroit in July, 2012, and permanent locations for others were selected in Denver and Dallas before sequestration. Last month, the General Services Administration - which owns and operates federal properties - said it was suspending its search for permanent patent office space in Silicon Valley, dashing hopes of local startups. "It was terribly disappointing," said Dave Clark, who launched a high tech pet products startup called Petzila in San Jose this year with his business partner Simon Milner. Eight months into the pet-friendly technology business, they say at

least 20 percent of their energy has gone toward getting a patent. That's time they'd rather spend developing, manufacturing, marketing and financing their first product: a wall mounted system called PetziConnect that allows pet owners to remotely say hello to their dog and, at the click of an icon, give Fido a treat. "It would be a godsend if we could meet with a patent examiner; It would cut our costs and time in half, and cut our anxiety by 60 percent," said Clark. "Nothing compares to a face-to-face conversation." A local patent office staffed with as many as 150 new examiners would have provided entrepreneurs with nearby staff familiar with high tech, and a streamlined process, business leaders said. "The more educated about the technology the examiners are, the better job they're going to be able to do in figuring out what applications are patent worthy and which should be rejected," said senior patent counsel Suzanne Michel at Google, which has tens of thousands of applications pending. A local Congressional delega-

tion is now seeking a sequestration exemption for the office. Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., whose district includes Silicon Valley, said shelving the office "is going to set us back in terms of our own competitive edge, like trying to run a race with your ankles hobbled." "It's too bad," said Jonah Probell, who writes semiconductor intellectual property patents for a small firm in Sunnyvale, Calif. For now, Silicon Valley Patent Office Director Michelle Lee, a former Google patent law division head, is working out of a small, temporary space with just a handful of administrative judges in rooms borrowed from another government agency in Menlo Park, Calif. - not nearly enough to meet the needs of the region. Meanwhile, lawmakers and bureaucrats on the East Coast will decide when they can release funds to open a permanent, fully staffed Silicon Valley Patent Office. To date, officials have said they plan to go ahead with it, but they have provided no timetable. "Which, who knows, that might be never," said Probell. □

Activists' funds growing bolder, but without the raider mindset

MICHAEL MERCED

JULIE CRESWELL

© 2013 New York Times

Microsoft executives faced an unusual challenge in April when a \$12 billion hedge fund, ValueAct, announced that it had bought a nearly \$2 billion stake in the company with the intention of shaking things up.

To many analysts, the possibility that ValueAct, with less than 1 percent of Microsoft's stock, could succeed seemed improbable at best. The firm buys shares in companies, hoping to fight for board seats and change the targets' corporate strategies.

But that small stake appears to have had outsize influence. On Friday, Microsoft agreed to let ValueAct meet regularly with some of its directors. And the hedge fund's president, Mason Morfit, could join the board within several months.

Once considered purveyors of a niche investment strategy, so-called activists like ValueAct have leapt onto the big stage as hedge funds wage bolder battles against ever-bigger corporate targets like Apple, leaving executives wondering if they could be next.

Unlike their predecessors who often pursued aggressive takeovers for quick gains, this latest generation of activists are largely agitating for some sort of long-term change - a shift in business strategy, a different use of cash, even a complete overhaul of a company's board.

Robust returns in recent years and new money racing into these funds at a rate not seen in seven years have given activist investors - as defined by industry experts like the firm Hedge Fund Research - a war chest of \$84 billion, more than double the assets they oversaw just four years ago. That money has fueled activists' ambitions, with mixed results. □

Opening Bell: A September to remember to test investors' nerves

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Imagine gathering nearly everything that has rattled investors' nerves over the past four years: the European debt crisis, fights over the U.S. government's budget and moves by the Federal Reserve. Now imagine all

to pass a spending bill before the month ends, a process which could easily turn into another brawl over raising the government's borrowing limit. Each item on the calendar could cause big swings in daily trading. And collectively, they could make an often dangerous month for

ing weeks also think it won't last. Even good years have bad months.

THE FED MEETING, SEPT. 18 First up, it's the Fed meeting that everybody on Wall Street spent the summer talking about. Conventional wisdom says that the Fed will announce plans to trim its monthly purchases

however, investors will likely take the Fed's next move in stride, says Sam Stovall, the chief equity strategist at S&P Capital IQ.

GERMAN ELECTIONS.

SEPT. 22

Remember the European debt crisis? From late 2009 until last year, worries about Greece, Spain or another



Jason Hardzewicz, a floor official and trader for Barclays, works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Imagine gathering nearly everything that has rattled investors' nerves over the past four years and cramming them all into one month: that month is here.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

of them crammed into one month.

That month? It's September.

"Oh, it's definitely going to be fun," says Jason Pride, director of investment strategy at the money management firm Glenmede in Philadelphia.

As August wrapped up, trading desks and investment firms looked warily at the lineup of events slated for September and warned clients of turbulence ahead.

The Fed's September meeting is when many on Wall Street think the central bank will begin winding down its massive bond-buying program. German voters will decide whether Chancellor Angela Merkel gets another term as the leader of Europe's largest economy. And Congress will be on a tight deadline

the market even more volatile.

"Right now, we're probably in the lull that precedes the storm," says Mark Luschini, the chief investment strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott in Pittsburgh.

September has often been a cruel month for the stock market, which gives it a superstitious power for some investors. Since 1945, the Standard & Poor's 500 index has slumped nearly six out of every 10 Septembers, with an average loss of 0.6 percent.

This one could be much worse, investors say. Luschini and others think the S&P 500 could slump more than 9 percent below the record high of 1,709.67, reached Aug. 2.

On the bright side, the same people who think the market is likely headed for a rough stretch in the com-

of bonds from \$85 billion to around \$75 billion. It would be the Fed's first step toward winding down the \$3 trillion bond-buying program launched during the financial crisis.

There's trepidation about the move — known as "tapering" — because the Fed's efforts have held down borrowing rates, a boon to the once-devastated housing market.

Minutes from the Fed's July meeting showed "broad support" for scaling back. But there was nothing about how much.

The danger is that the Fed scales back much more than expected, says Glenmede's Pride. Maybe, for instance, the Fed will buy \$55 billion each month.

"Markets will react as if the Fed is slamming on the breaks," he says.

Barring any big surprises,

of the continent's troubled economies would flare up and send the U.S. stock market into a tailspin.

This year has been different. France and Germany helped tug the eurozone out of an 18-month recession this spring. A closely watched survey recently showed business activity rising for four months straight. U.S. investors who used to keep close tabs on Europe's bond markets for signs of trouble now look to the region for investment ideas.

Germany's elections on Sept. 22 will likely push Europe back into the spotlight, if only because of what happens afterward. Analysts expect that the new German government will take up long-awaited reforms for the eurozone, the 17 countries that use the euro currency. □

Sommers Column:**In this risky environment, no need to duck - just diversify****JEFF SOMMER**

© 2013 New York Times

It's a very risky environment for the markets right now. It's also a very good time to be an investor.

These two propositions may seem contradictory, but they're not - at least in the view of David P. Kelly, chief global strategist at JP Morgan Funds.

"There are many problems in the economy and in the markets, certainly," Kelly said in an interview. Short-term losses could easily be on the way, and they could be painful. "But the answer for a long-term investor isn't to avoid risk," he said. "It is to be extremely diversified - and to invest in equities. You're likely to do much better that way than if you stay out of the markets."

Still, he concedes, it's very easy to make the case that the factors affecting the stock, bond, currency and commodity markets are spectacularly harrowing at the moment.

Just consider some of the more obvious problems.

The prospect of Western military intervention in Syria has rattled the markets, sending oil and gold prices higher, driving down the value of emerging-market currencies and stocks and unsettling the stock and bond markets in the United States.

In Washington, the fiscal clock is ticking toward two irksome deadlines. At the end of September, the federal government will run out of money unless Congress takes action, and even if it does, the government will hit its debt ceiling in mid-October, the Treasury says. At that point, unless there is a meeting of the minds in Congress and the White House, the United States won't be able to pay all of its bills, and it could default on its debt. And in mid-September, the Federal Reserve is widely expected to begin reducing its \$85 billion monthly purchases of fixed-income securities, in a move known as "the taper." Longer-

term interest rates have already begun to rise in anticipation.

The prospect of Fed action has sporadically unsettled the markets, playing a role in the sell-off of emerging-market debt and raising fears of a vicious feedback loop, in which bond prices, currencies and the real economies in countries like India, Turkey and Indonesia plummet and threaten to spread contagion elsewhere around the world. This is not a pretty picture, and Kelly doesn't claim that it is. Current valuations suggest that developed-market equities are a better buy than developed-market bonds, Kelly said, and will remain so for several years even if interest rates rise. One valuation measure points this out: the difference between the yield on 10-year sovereign bonds, like U.S. Treasurys or German Bunds, and the



Although markets and economies around the world face much short-term instability, some say it can still be a good time to invest in stocks.

(Koren Shadmi/The New York Times)

earnings yield on equities. (The earnings yield is earnings per share divided by the current share price; it is the inverse of the price-to-earnings ratio, or P/E.)

Using this measure, the U.S. stock market remains quite attractive. The difference between the 10-year yield and the earnings yield is now 4.25 percentage points. German stocks are even more appealing, according to this metric, he said, with a comparable figure of 7.1 percentage points. And because he believes that both the German and U.S. economies are strengthening, Kelly favors overweighting investments in their stock markets while underweighting investments in their bond markets. But, he said, he didn't want "to oversell the probabilities of any one investment being successful in a given period of time." □

Ethiopian Airlines says Dreamliner boosted profits

An Ethiopian Airlines' Boeing 787 Dreamliner prepares to take off from Addis Ababa airport in Ethiopia. Ethiopian Airlines has made a record profit, the company's chief executive officer said this weekend.

(AP Photo/Elias Asmare)

KIRUBEL TADESSE**Associated Press****ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)**

— Ethiopian Airlines has made a record profit, the company's chief executive officer said this weekend. Tewolde Gebremariam partly credited the profitability of Ethiopian Airlines to Boeing's problematic 787 planes. He said the company's operating profit between July 2012 and

June 2013 is 2.7 billion birr (\$143,137,098) from a billion birr (\$53,013,740) the previous financial year.

Citing unaudited company accounts Tewolde said that the company's net profits also surged during the period to 2.03 billion birr (\$107,617,892) from 734 million birr (\$39,230,167) of the previous year, a 178 percent increase. Tewolde said the perfor-

mance is a result of "exceptionally dedicated employees" and the Boeing 787 planes he described as super-efficient. He said the planes helped the company save on fuel costs.

In January, Dreamliner's around the world were grounded because of overheating lithium batteries. Ethiopian Airlines was the first to get the plane back in the air, on April 27. In early July one of the company's 787 planes was damaged by a fire while parked at London Heathrow airport. The plane had been parked for about 10 hours when a worker in the control tower saw smoke coming out, and activated a crash alarm.

British air safety officials have subsequently recommended that emergency transmitters on Boeing 787s should be disabled after finding that one of the squat orange boxes was the only thing with enough power to start a fire in the scorched tail section of the 787.

Tewolde said Ethiopian Air would have been even more profitable, if it had not been for incidents involving the 787 planes.

"Definitely the incidents and grounding have some impact. We were very fortunate that coincidentally the grounding of the planes were in what we call slack season . it's a slow demand season. So were able to minimize the level of the impact," said Tewolde. He insisted the Dreamliner's are "the future of the aviation" and his company is sticking with plans to buy five more of the planes and lease three others. "Whenever we introduce the aircraft in any route, the load factor immediately increases, which means our customers love the plane, they are enjoying its features," Tewolde said. He said the incidents with the Dreamliner are part of a natural teething period "which is not unusual for a technologically game-changing aircraft such as the Dreamliner." □

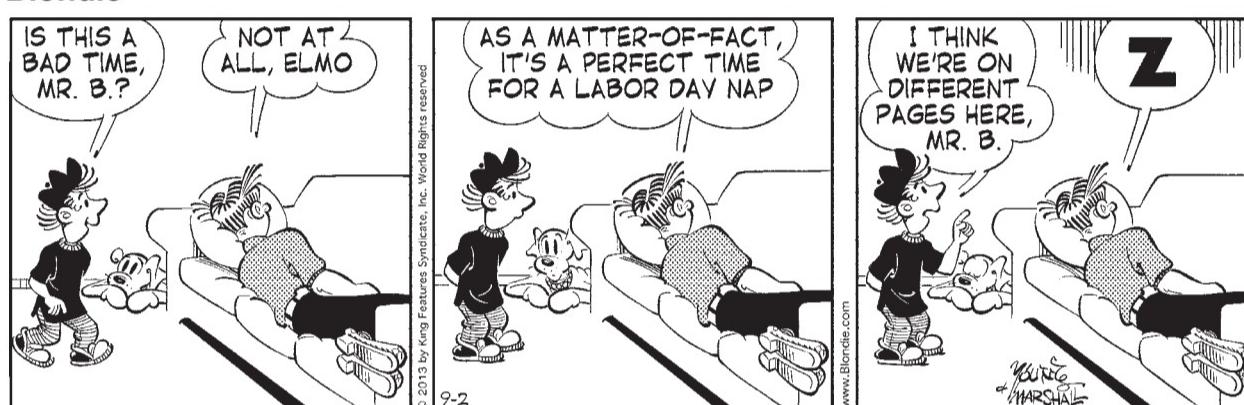
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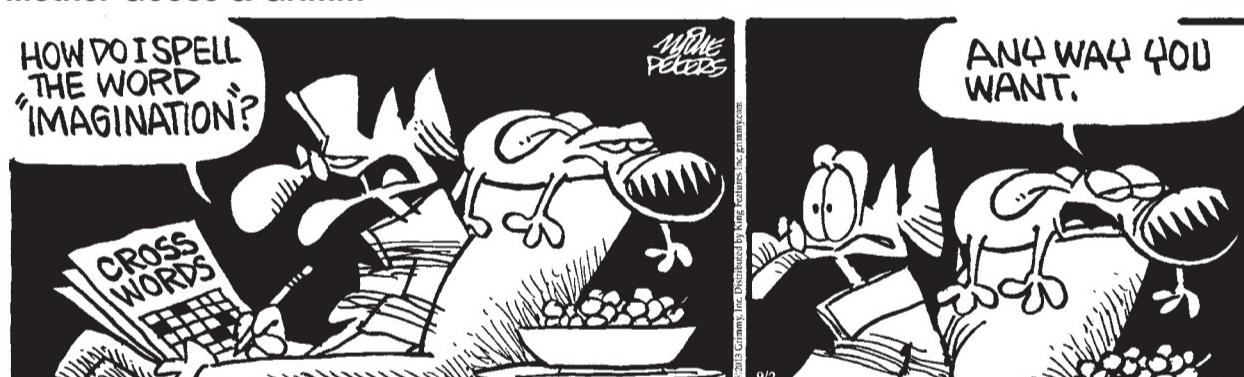
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Blondie



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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9	3	1	6	4	2			
2			4			6		
1		8	3			5		
9	5			1		7		
4			5			6		
6	1			8		3		
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1	6	5	2	9	7			

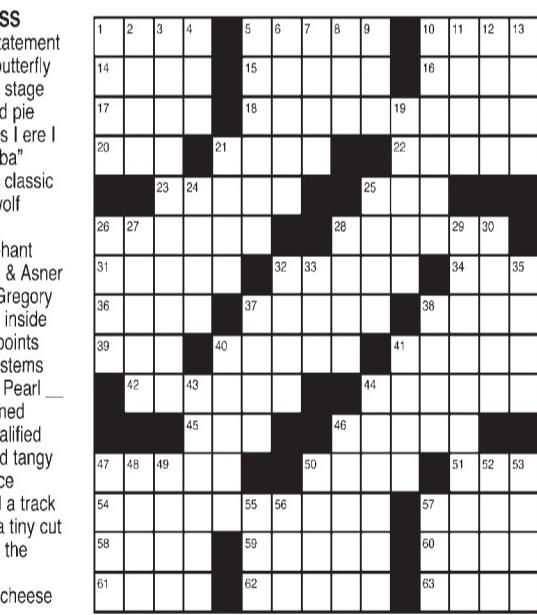
Difficulty Level ★

9/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

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2	5	3	1	6	7	4	9	8
9	1	8	2	4	5	7	6	3
6	2	5	7	8	4	1	3	9
1	9	7	6	2	3	8	5	4
8	3	4	9	5	1	6	7	2
7	4	1	8	3	9	5	2	6
5	6	9	4	7	2	3	8	1
3	8	2	5	1	6	9	4	7

Saturday's puzzle answer



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/2/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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OVEN	HAIKU	HATE
DIED	ADDITIONAL	
ODD	SPAS	SUSHI
USHER	CAT	
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PAKISTANIS	RICE	
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9/2/13

- 5 Place for the feeding and care of horses
6 Wonderland visitor
7 Actor Schroder
8 Brewer's tub
9 Hoopla
10 Shoddily built
11 Closed circle
12 Lie next to
13 Too inquisitive
14 Pass along
21 Robert Frost or Walt Whitman
24 Cut with shears
25 Engrave
26 Shrub
27 "Little Orphan" _____
28 Breath of relief
29 _____ school; early place of learning
30 Calendar boxes
32 Transmit
33 Deep hole
34 Deep hole
35 Cushions
37 Give one's _____ promise
38 Rider's fee
40 Injures
41 Discussion
43 With caution
44 Discontinues
46 Raise
47 Drove too fast
48 Whitecap, e.g.
49 Related letters
50 Winter flakes
52 Article; object network
53 Sports network
55 Light brown
56 "Roses _____ red, violets..."
57 Speedometer letters

Nixon interviewer David Frost is dead at 74

BRIAN STELTER

© 2013 New York Times

David Frost, the iconoclastic British broadcaster best known for interviewing former President Richard M. Nixon after he resigned from office in disgrace, died Saturday night. He

newsmaker interviews for Al-Jazeera English, one of the BBC's main competitors overseas.

"His conversations with his guests elicited both news lines and a unique insight into their lives," said Al Anstey, the managing di-



David Frost, left, talks with former President Richard Nixon in this March 1977 b/w file photo prior to the taping of his interview with the former President. Veteran broadcaster David Frost, who won fame around the world for his interview with former President Richard Nixon, has died, his family told the BBC. He was 74. (AP Photo, File)

was 74.

His death, which was announced in a statement by the Frost family to the BBC, was confirmed by a spokesman for Al-Jazeera English, where Frost hosted an interview program. The statement said Frost died, possibly of a heart attack, while aboard the Queen Elizabeth cruise ship, where he was scheduled to give a speech.

Frost had just moved to a home close to Oxford, according to Richard Brock, his executive producer at Al-Jazeera English. He also had a home in London.

Known for incisive interviews of leading public figures, Frost spent more than 50 years in television. Since 2006, he has conducted

rector of Al-Jazeera English.

Among his guests on Al-Jazeera were President George Bush, George Clooney and the tennis star Martina Navratilova. One of his first interviews for Al-Jazeera made headlines when his guest Tony Blair agreed with Frost's assessment that the Iraq war had, up until that point in 2006, "been pretty much of a disaster." More recently, in 2011, Frost sat with Donald H. Rumsfeld, the former defense secretary.

A new season of Frost's program, "The Frost Interview," began in July with the astronaut Buzz Aldrin. The season was scheduled to continue through mid-September.

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David Paradine Frost was born April 7, 1939, in Tenterden, England, to Mona and W. J. Paradine Frost. His father was a Methodist minister. While a student, Frost edited both a student newspaper and a literary publication at Cambridge University, where he showed a great talent for satire - something the BBC soon capitalized on.

In 1962, Frost became the host of "That Was the Week That Was," a satirical look at the news on Saturday nights. While it lasted for only two seasons in Britain, "TW3," as it was known, was reborn briefly as a program on NBC in the United States, and it is remembered as a forerunner to "The Daily Show" and the "Weekend Update" segment on NBC's "Saturday Night Live." After "TW3," Frost hosted a succession of programs in Britain, from game shows to intellectually rigorous talk shows. □



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Engineers at a NASA site in Virginia preparing an unmanned craft for its moon mission, which is set to start Friday.

Terry Zaperach/NASA

By CAROLINE CHEN

The last moon mission on NASA's current schedule — a small, unmanned spacecraft that will study moon dust and the lunar atmosphere — is scheduled to launch on Friday from Wallops Island, Va., elating scientists who study the moon but highlighting political questions about what NASA should do next.

The Smart Car-size spacecraft, which NASA calls the Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer, will take 30 days to get into orbit around the moon, spend the next 30 days checking its equipment and proceed with scientific work for 100 days, searching for water molecules in the atmosphere and gathering data about the curious substance known as lunar dust. Then the probe, which goes by the acronym Ladee (pronounced laddie), will take a death plunge into the rocky surface of the subject it is studying.

The results of the scientific program could be helpful in preparing for future manned missions to the moon. Although NASA currently does not have such plans, some members of Congress have called on the space agency to return to the moon rather than pursuing its current space

objectives.

Although there is wide agreement that NASA should ultimately aim for a manned flight to Mars, that goal is far off. The more immediate plan, which has been criticized on Capitol Hill, is to capture an asteroid and tow it closer to home so astronauts can visit it.

But NASA has continued sending unmanned spacecraft to the moon; the coming mission will be the third to go there in five years. While scientists are excited about what the experiment may yield, they are also concerned about the absence of future moon voyages on NASA's schedule.

"If you're going to fly this mission with the goal of understanding the atmosphere and how dust might affect future human missions, and you don't have the future human missions, then part of the reason for the mission disappears," said David Kring, senior staff scientist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, a NASA-financed research institute in Houston. Even if NASA sits on the sidelines, traffic to the moon will be busy. China announced last week that it would land its first exploratory rover on the moon by the end of the year. India, Japan,

New moon probe raises questions about what to do next in space

Russia and the European Space Agency also have unmanned missions in the works. And Google is sponsoring a competition called the Lunar X Prize, offering up to \$20 million to the first company that can send a robotic spacecraft to the moon by 2015 and make it perform certain tasks.

The Ladee spacecraft was conceived when NASA was also planning new manned missions to the moon, which would have been the first since 1972. But the Obama administration canceled that program, called Constellation, in 2010, calling it over budget and behind schedule. Ladee stayed in the pipeline.

The spacecraft will search for water in the very thin lunar atmosphere, which is estimated to be 1/100,000th the density of Earth's, perhaps similar to Mercury's. Scientists want to find out how the ice on the moon's poles managed to get there, said Richard Elphic, project scientist for the mission. They speculate that water molecules in the moon's atmosphere may have migrated toward the poles and frozen in place, he said.

Evidence of water below the moon's surface was discovered in recent years by a NASA-financed instrument aboard an Indian spacecraft, Chandrayaan-1. Data collected from the coming mission could help complete the picture of the moon's water cycle,

Dr. Elphic said.

The orbiter will also examine the movements of lunar dust. "Dust" is a bit of a misnomer, the scientists said: the crushed debris is extremely fine but also has jagged, sharp edges, since there is no wind or water on the moon's surface to wear it down.

"It's certainly more annoying than terrestrial dust," said Sarah Noble, program scientist for the mission. "It's like shards of glass, and it sticks to everything. If it gets into your eyes or your skin, it's abrasive and it hurts. It also really gums up machinery."

The dust poses a risk to robots and humans alike, as it can wreak havoc on equipment and spacesuits. Understanding the way the dust moves through the atmosphere will help scientists better prepare for longer missions on the moon, Dr. Elphic said.

Not everyone agrees that dust is a major concern. "Dust on the lunar surface does not pose a serious risk to future lunar exploration," Dr. Kring said, pointing out that astronauts managed to survive the dust without major problems. But he still saw value in the dust inquiry, saying, "We always want to reduce the risk, and to understand the dust phenomenon in and of itself is worthwhile."

NASA said the launching would break technological ground. Previously, spacecraft were custom-made

for each mission and the models were not reusable. But this spacecraft was designed for assembly-line production, so that future missions could save money by using identical components.

The spacecraft's design and construction cost \$125 million out of a mission price of \$250 million, said Dwayne Brown, a NASA spokesman. If the same design were used again, Mr. Brown said, NASA estimates that the cost would drop to \$90 million for the first spacecraft and then over time to \$55 million each. At the moment, though, NASA does not have other projects lined up to reuse the model, he said.

The spacecraft will ride on the maiden voyage of the Minotaur V rocket built by the Orbital Sciences Corporation, one of several private contractors NASA has turned to in recent years to supply rockets for its missions. The launching will be the first lunar mission for Orbital, as well as the first moon journey departing from Wallops Island.

In 2009 and 2011, Orbital lost two NASA satellites in failed launching of its Taurus XL rocket, costing the agency more than \$600 million.

For this mission to succeed, Ladee will need to launch, separate from the Minotaur V, and insert itself into lunar orbit. Then, NASA will be able to begin its experiments. □

HPV vaccine for boys has 'good start' in 1st year

**By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer**

ATLANTA (AP) - When the HPV vaccine was first recommended for boys, health officials worried it would be an unusually hard sell. But a new report suggests that might not be the case.

About 1 in 5 boys got at least one of the recommended three doses last year, relatively good for a new vaccine aimed at adolescents.

The shots are largely intended not to protect boys from disease, but to stop them from spreading a sexually transmitted virus to girls that could cause cervical cancer. The vaccine hasn't been very popular among girls. The government report issued Thursday is the first real sense of how many boys are getting the shots. "It's a good start," said Shannon Stokley, a vaccination expert with the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention.

Introduced in 2006, the vaccine protects against human papillomavirus, which is spread during sex. Most infections go away on their own, without people developing symptoms. But the virus can cause cervical cancer in females, genital warts in both sexes, and some other, less common conditions like throat and anal cancer. □

NYC music fest canceled after 2 drug-linked deaths

NEW YORK (AP) — The last day of a New York City dance music festival featuring high-profile acts including Avicii, David Guetta and Diplo was canceled Sunday after the deaths of two attendees and the hospitalizations of several others, apparently linked to drugs.

The city said it recommended that the Electric Zoo festival end early after the deaths and illnesses during the first two days of performances on Friday and Saturday.

The festival took place on Randall's Island in the East River.

"The Electric Zoo organizers have worked with city officials to reduce health risks at this event, but in view of these occurrences, the safest course is to cancel the remaining day of the event," the city said.

Police identified those who died as Jeffrey Russ, 23, of Rochester, New York, and

Olivia Rotondo, 20, of Providence, Rhode Island.

Russ was pronounced dead at Harlem Hospital around 3:20 a.m. Saturday, police said. He had been brought to the hospital from the festival.

Rotondo was taken to Metropolitan Hospital later Saturday, around 8:45 p.m., and was pronounced dead shortly afterward, police said.

The city says the deaths appear to have been linked to drugs, specifically MDMA, or ecstasy. A spokeswoman for the city medical examiner said autopsy results were inconclusive and further toxicology and tissue testing is needed.

The event's founders, Made Event, expressed condolences on its website to the families of those who died. "Because there is nothing more important to us than our patrons, we have decided in consultation with the New York



Swedish DJ, remixer and record producer Avicii poses for a portrait, on Friday, August 30, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

City Parks Department that there will be no show today," the statement said.

The festival has been held over the Labor Day holiday weekend since 2009.

It draws sizable crowds to hear artists performing on multiple stages. □

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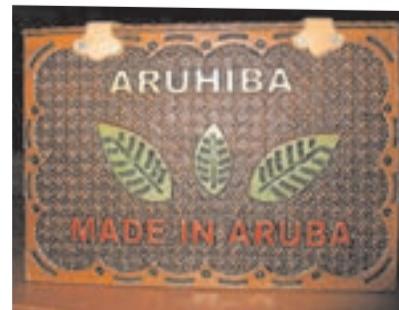
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Director: 'Night Moves' not a political statement

COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press (AP) — Indie filmmaker Kelly Reichardt, for the sake of her dog, drives back and forth between her New York home and the Oregonian landscape that shapes her films, noting along the way the increasing toll of industrialization. The observation has relevance for her latest film, "Night Moves," which tells the story of three young environmentalists who plot to blow up an Oregon dam choking a stream and flooding old forests. The plotline puts front and center the issue of eco-terrorism — a term that Reichardt does not endorse. "I would call it direct activism," Reichardt said in an interview Saturday ahead of the film's world premiere in competition at the Venice Film Festival. "But if there is radicalism, I guess I would say it is on behalf of the corporations. When I drive cross-country and I see the face of America, to me it feels radical in how little remains untouched."

"Nightmoves," a thriller at heart, but with Reichardt's thoughtful pacing, stars Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning and Peter Sarsgaard as environmentalists who have chosen a radical — and perilous — action to protest environmental degradation.

Reichardt films in detail as the three organize the bombing, revealing the edginess of Eisenberg's

Josh, the almost carefree calm of Fanning's Dena and the cavalier daring in Sarsgaard's Harmon as they buy a boat, figure out how to get another 500 pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and prepare the explosives. They are alternately meticulous and careless.

"These are not professionals" Reichardt said. "Harmon has a sort of casualness that makes him dangerous and Dena is at an age that makes her so self-assured, at least at the beginning." She describes Josh as "a pretty dark character. He has a lot to feel really, really right about, and that can be dangerous."

Reichardt insists the film is not meant to make a political statement. Rather "it's really a character film, and just based on what I think would be the conversation of our time." And she deflects questions about whether she reveals details that might be useful to would-be copycats. "There was so much on the Internet, if you wanted a manual," she said during a press conference. "I am



Actress Dakota Fanning, director Kelly Reichardt and actor Jesse Eisenberg pose for photographers on the red carpet for the screening of the film *Night Moves* at the 70th edition of the Venice Film Festival held from Aug. 28 through Sept. 7, in Venice, Italy, Saturday, Aug. 31, 2013. **Associated Press**

not sure the film celebrates the glory. It is about the complexity of radicals, and I think the downsides are equally weighed."

The scenery informs this movie, as in all of Reichardt's work, and Fanning said filming on location brought the dilemmas home to her. "There is a scene when they are on the boat going through a tree grave yard, with stumps sticking out of the water. They used to be trees, but the dam has changed the level of the water," Fanning said in an interview. Fanning said she could understand the characters' frustration with

general apathy in the face of environmental destruction, but she also said she how small projects can make a difference when she was invited recently on a tour of five African nations with former President Bill Clinton's foundation. "I think the three characters are all looking for that kind of connected feeling and this is their way of feeling plugged into the world, and plugged into the movement and activism," she said. "Their maybe rash choice is from a place of just wanting to feel a part of it, and kind of being annoyed at the rest of the people around them that

they are not seeing it."

"I think it happens with all kinds of different things and not just activism. I certainly have moments where I'm like, 'Am I the only person who feels this way? Seriously?'" Fanning said.

Eisenberg worked for several months on the organic farm that was Reichardt's starting point for the film, living in a yurt and working in cabbage fields — an experience that helped the actor connect with his character's motives.

"It just gives you a different sense of living," Eisenberg said. "When you are planting the food that you eat, you feel a direct sense with interacting with the world for practical reasons, and alternatively you are feeling disgusted by a lot of modernity just by being separate from it. That is what my character is mainly driven by."

"My character thinks of himself as a soldier in a war fighting what he views as modern society that's been co-opted by business and technology," he said. "I suppose there is a kind of irony if he is fighting to create a more beautiful, peaceful and sustainable environment, but doing it through kind of dangerous means. He views his acts as right and just, and he views the damage as collateral damage. □"

Beetle Bailey creator honored on 90th birthday

STAMFORD, Connecticut (AP) — Beetle Bailey was known to be a lazy Army private, but the creator of the popular comic strip is getting accolades from top military brass and others as he celebrates his 90th birthday.

Cartoonist Mort Walker is receiving good wishes from Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy,

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Dolly Parton and Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Walker's birthday is Sept. 3. He lives in Stamford, Connecticut.

He told The Associated Press in 2010 as the comic strip marked its 60th anniversary that he would continue with his creation until he's no longer able.

The comic strip featuring Beetle Bailey, Sarge and



In this Aug. 16, 2010 file photo, Mort Walker, the artist and author of the *Beetle Bailey* comic strip, speaks about his decades of work and experiences at his studio in Stamford, Conn. **Associated Press**

his dog, Otto, Gen. Amos Halftrack and Miss Buxley

has more than 200 million readers in 52 countries. □

One Great Big War



DAVID BROOKS

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What's the biggest threat to world peace right now? Despite the horror, it's not chemical weapons in Syria. It's not even, for the moment, an Iranian nuclear weapon. Instead, it's the possibility of a wave of sectarian strife building across the Middle East.

The Syrian civil conflict is both a proxy war and a combustion point for spreading waves of violence. This didn't start out as a religious war. But both Sunni and Shiite power players are seizing on religious symbols and sowing sectarian passions that are rippling across the region. The Saudi and Iranian powers hover in the background fueling each side. As the death toll in Syria rises to Rwanda-like proportions, images of mass killings draw holy warriors from countries near and far. The radical groups are the most effective fighters and control the tempo of events. The Syrian opposition groups are themselves split violently along sectarian lines so that the country seems to face a choice between anarchy and atrocity.

Meanwhile, the strife appears to be spreading. Sunni-Shiite violence in Iraq is spiking upward. Reports in The New York Times and elsewhere have said that many Iraqis fear their country is sliding back to the worst of the chaos experienced in the past decade. Even Turkey, Pakistan, Bahrain and Kuwait could be infected.

"It could become a regional religious war similar to that witnessed in Iraq 2006-2008, but far wider and without the moderating influence of American forces," wrote Gary Grappo, a retired senior Foreign Service officer with long experience in the region.

"It has become clear over the last year that the upheavals in the Islamic and Arab world have become a clash within a civilization rather than a clash between civilizations," Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies wrote recently. "The Sunni versus Alawite civil war in Syria is increasingly interacting with the Sunni versus Shiite tensions in the Gulf that are edging Iraq back towards civil war. They also interact with the Sunni-Shiite, Maronite and other confessional struggles in Lebanon."

Some experts even say that we are seeing the emergence of a single big conflict that could be

part of a generation-long devolution, which could end up toppling regimes and redrawing the national borders that were established after World War I. The forces ripping people into polarized groups seem stronger than the forces bringing them together.

It is pretty clear that the recent U.S. strategy of light-footprint withdrawal and nation-building at home has not helped matters. The United States could have left more troops in Iraq and tamped down violence there. We could have intervened in Syria back when there was still something to be done and some reasonable opposition to mold.

At this late hour, one question is whether the sectarian fire has grown so hot that it is beyond taming. The second question is whether the United States has any strategy to limit the conflagration.

Right now, President Barack Obama is focused on the imminent strike against the Assad regime, to establish U.S. credibility when it sets red lines and reinforce the norm that poison gas is not acceptable.

But the president does have the makings of a broader anti-sectarian strategy. He has at least three approaches on the table. The first is containment: trying to keep each nation's civil strife contained within its own borders. The second is reconciliation: looking for diplomatic opportunities to bring the Sunni axis, led by the Saudis, toward some rapprochement with the Shiite axis, led by Iran. So far, there have been few diplomatic opportunities to do this.

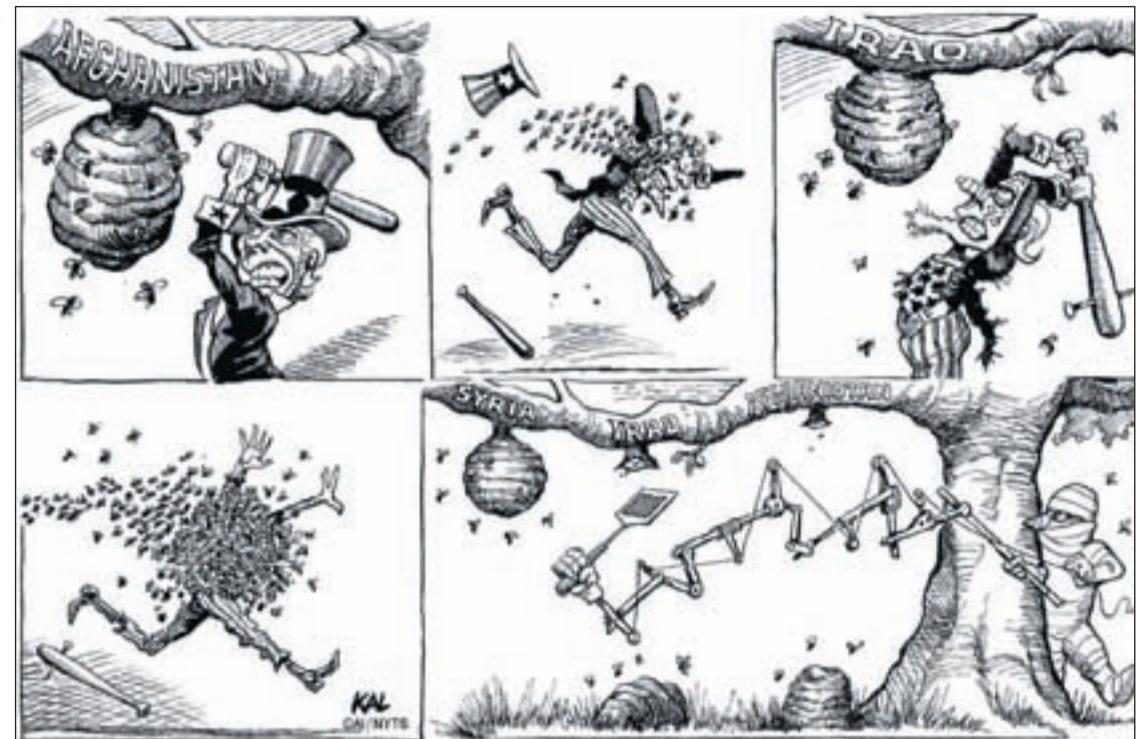
Finally, there is neutrality: The nations in the Sunni axis are continually asking the United States to simply throw in with them, to use the CIA and other U.S. capacities to help the Sunnis beat back their rivals. The administration has decided that taking sides so completely is not an effective long-term option.

Going forward, there probably has to be a global education effort to reduce anti-Sunni and anti-Shiite passions. Iran could be asked to pay a higher price not only for its nuclear program, but for its mischief-making around the region.

But, at this point, it's not clear whether American and other outside interference would help squash hatreds or inflame them. The legendary diplomat Ryan Crocker argues in a recent essay in YaleGlobal that major outside interventions might only make things worse.

"The hard truth is that the fires in Syria will blaze for some time to come. Like a major forest fire, the most we can do is hope to contain it."

Poison gas in Syria is horrendous, but the real inferno is regional. When you look at all the policy options for dealing with the Syria situation, they are all terrible or too late. The job now is to try to wall off the situation to prevent something just as bad but much more sprawling. □



Rebattling The Battle Of The Sexes



GAIL COLLINS

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We are always refighting old battles. But I honestly did not expect to be spending any time in 2013 arguing about whether Billie Jean King beat Bobby Riggs.

Next month we'll celebrate the 40th anniversary of King's victory in "The Battle of the Sexes," the tennis match that demonstrated to an astonished world that the best woman tennis player in the country could, at 29, beat a 55-year-old guy who used to be good at the game.

I know. You had to be there.

But if you were, it was quite a moment. Then this week, ESPN released a much-promoted report suggesting the whole thing was a fraud. The new evidence is a 79-year-old man who claims to have listened while a couple of mob bosses met at a Tampa country club and discussed Riggs' promise to throw the match.

The alleged witness, Hal Shaw, told ESPN that on a winter night about 40 years ago, he was working behind the pro shop at Palma Ceia Country Club when Santo Trafficante Jr., the mob boss of Florida, and Carlos Marcello, the mob boss of New Orleans, walked in with Trafficante's lawyer, Frank Ragano.

Shaw claimed that while he listened from a concealed perch, Ragano described everything

that the middle-aged tennis hustler Bobby Riggs was going to do over the next nine months: Play the world's top-ranked woman, Margaret Court. Defeat Court, thus luring Billie Jean King into a match to defend the honor of female tennis players. Hype the event to the rafters, attracting enormous international attention. Then lose the match, after which the Mafia would forgive Riggs for \$100,000 in gambling debts.

And then they went away.

Now strange things happen in sports. Some day when you are 79, you may suddenly remember that you were cleaning a saddle at a major U.S. racetrack in 1973, when a group of well-dressed horses walked in and began discussing a long-range plan to throw the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes so Secretariat could win the Triple Crown.

If this were any other sports victory, we could just shrug and move on. But the Billie Jean King-Bobby Riggs match was a central story in the history of the American women's movement. The great hurdle women were trying to overcome in the 1970s was ridicule, and Riggs, who had built himself a new career as a self-styled chauvinist pig, was all about the sneer.

When he said that "a woman's place is in the bedroom and the kitchen, in that order," you did not see a frightened man defending his threatened prerogatives. You saw a guy laughing at the whole business of girls trying to pretend to be good at sports. Or business. Or the military. Or whatever.

When King entered the stadium on a litter, carried by several underdressed young men and waving to the crowd, she was announcing that she understood exactly what this particular game was all about and that she wasn't cowed by Riggs' posturing and clowning. She won before she started. And then she actually won.

It was a message for any woman who had ever worried about being laughed at if she stepped out

of line. So a claim that this story was actually just an elaborate scenario, played out to pay off one of Bobby Riggs' gambling debts, is not something you want to ignore.

Nobody featured in this incredible tale is still alive except Shaw, the assistant golf pro who says he overheard everything. While it's possible that Shaw kept it to himself for 40 years because he's just not a chatty guy, one of the other lead players was talkative in the extreme. Frank Ragano, who allegedly orchestrated the gathering, eventually produced a memoir, "Mob Lawyer," which he wrote with Selwyn Raab. There is nothing in it about tennis.

"Ragano would have mentioned it to me," said Nicholas Pileggi, a longtime friend of Ragano's who wrote the book's foreword. "He wanted to do the book, and he kept telling me: 'This could go in the book. That could go in the book.' Anything that was going to help promote the book."

Pileggi, one of the world's great experts on all things Mafia, was offended at the idea that anyone could imagine top mob bosses trotting into a country club and hashing out a long-running plot to fix a tennis match in the pro shop.

"The notion of Santo Trafficante and Carlos Marcello appearing together in a public locker room is so outrageous," he sniffed. "These guys do not meet."

In "Mob Lawyer," Ragano has all kinds of stories about corruption and advanced criminality. He claimed that in 1963 he took a message from Jimmy Hoffa to Trafficante and Marcello, asking that President John Kennedy be killed and that after the assassination he and Trafficante drank a toast.

We don't need to go down the Kennedy conspiracy path here. All I'm saying is that anybody who was willing to publicize his connection to the murder of a president of the United States would not have been shy about bringing up Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs.

Case closed. □

Jets' Future Seems Haunted By Their Checkered Past

BEN SHPIGEL

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This is how the Jets wanted Geno Smith to win their quarterback competition: by shining all summer long, by dominating during the preseason, by proving beyond a reasonable doubt that he was the team's best option for Week 1. They wanted him to earn it. This is how Smith, it appears, will win their quarterback competition: by default. Smith soared, and then he dipped, hurt his ankle and threw three interceptions against the Giants. Mark Sanchez hurt his shoulder, while Smith is still upright.

The four-month battle had to end like this, without a real resolution. The Smith era had to begin like this, with an air of anticlimax. It is, after all, the Jets. Despite a regime change, they are still confronting underlying issues, issues illuminated by this quarterback saga.

There is the unfulfilled promise of Sanchez, whose guaranteed \$8.25 million salary for 2013 - settled as part of the contract extension brokered between 26-turnover seasons - served as a thoughtful welcome gift to the new front office. And there are the expectations for Smith, whose ascent would validate general manager John Idzik's decision to draft him.

There is the decision-making of Rex Ryan, whose questionable call to play Sanchez behind the backup offensive line late against the Giants was followed by a shoulder injury to Sanchez.

There is also Idzik's input in the selection of the starting quarterback, which has cast into question Ryan's voice when it comes to on-field matters.

It has been a swift decline for the Jets, who have lost 13 of their last 19 games. With hardly an intermediate phase, they went from being an AFC force into a team in rebuilding mode, a transitional stage that could last beyond this season. "They could compete with anybody, but now they're not quite at that point," said Charley Cas-

serly, an NFL Network analyst and a former personnel executive for the Houston Texans and the Washington Redskins. "To say this team can beat the Patriots and be in first place or contend for a playoff spot is unrealistic. But if you sit there and think that this could be the beginning of a new run for them, then that's a possibility." The Jets' future is haunted by their past. Not unlike the Mets of five years ago, the Jets seemed to focus on solving the previous year's

it was Mark's team to win or lose. It's just not going to happen. We weren't there. It was too much pressure on him."

There is no quick fix, not at quarterback, not in most areas. For every perceived solution, a potential problem awaits.

Idzik has formulated a long-term plan to rejuvenate the franchise, but at present he still has Ryan, who wants to win in 2013 to improve his chances of coaching the Jets in 2014. Ryan is a tremendous de-

of Smith's speed, which, he said, makes the rookie "quite a little bit more dynamic" than Sanchez, while mixing in deception and cunning: read-option tendencies, some Wildcat with running back Bilal Powell and perhaps even the Pistol formation, which the Jets used a few times against the Giants.

In the preseason Mornhinweg has revealed an aptitude for designing concepts that create favorable matchups for receivers, especially in the

abandoned his failed plan to get more involved on offense. Ryan leads meetings and has reclaimed play-calling duties, much as he did in 2009, his first year in charge. It would be a damning indictment of him, then, if the defense struggled. And it would not be because of a lack of talent. He is a master of disguising pressure and mixing up fronts, and he has much to work with: The defensive line, anchored by first-round picks Sheldon Richardson and Muham-



New York Jets coach Rex Ryan on the sidelines during an NFL pre-season game against the Philadelphia Eagles at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., Aug. 29, 2013. It appears that Geno Smith has won the Jets' quarterback competition by default after Mark Sanchez sustained a shoulder injury.

(Tim Clayton/The New York Times)

problems without correctly forecasting those that would bedevil them next. Chief among them: trading for Tim Tebow, trusting Aaron Maybin (and Shonn Greene and Wayne Hunter and Bart Scott) and hiring Tony Sparano as offensive coordinator. The effects of a major miscalculation - presuming that Sanchez was ready to take over the offense, while simultaneously divesting the offense of talent around him - still reverberate. "Mark Sanchez was a viable part of what we did, but only a part," former special-teams coach Mike Westhoff said. "And then all of a sudden,

fensive tactician and a superb motivator, but in each of the last two offseasons he admitted that his offensive philosophy had failed. The new coordinator, Marty Mornhinweg, is creative, adept at developing quarterbacks and a proven play-caller, but he is surrounded by unproven and inexperienced players at every position.

If Sparano could build a cinder block wall, Mornhinweg is capable of designing that dream home on the water. He just might not have the hammer and nails to do so yet. To compensate, Mornhinweg is likely to take advantage

middle of the field, where Jeremy Kerley, Jeff Cumberland and (a healthy, productive) Santonio Holmes would seem to benefit most. "On offense, they're a bit limited," Westhoff said, "so if they're going to win, they have to be a dominating team on defense. And I don't mean just in a couple statistics. I mean everywhere." Dominating - unlikely - but the Jets have

a far better chance of doing so on defense than on offense. Already, Ryan has boasted that the Jets' defense will rank among the five best in the NFL. He seized control of it early in the offseason, when he

mad Wilkerson, a budding Pro Bowler, could be one of the best in the AFC, and linebacker Demario Davis should prove an asset in pass coverage. They face upheaval in the secondary, starting two new safeties for the third consecutive season and a rookie, Dee Milliner, at cornerback opposite Antonio Cromartie after trading Darrelle Revis to Tampa Bay.

In one week the Jets will see Revis, in their season opener. Some issues, like their 53-man roster, will be sorted out by then. Others will loom, for another week, maybe two, maybe 16, without resolution. □